

BINGANG



dec.73

BING-GANG
PRESENTED BY
THE CLUB CROSBY

Vol. XXV, No. 2 - December, 1973

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Membership Dues: \$2.50 per year (\$3.00 effective Jan. 1, 1974)

We are affiliated with the Australian Club Crosby and the British Crosby Collector

Submit material for the Spring journal (deadline: April 1, 1974) to Patricia Sullivan at the above address. Dues payable to the Club Crosby, c/o Priscilla Koernig at the above address.

Photos: Crosby Office

Covers: Joe Sinnott

Cover Story: An Interview With Joe Venuti by Bill Osborn,
Page 32.

THE EDITOR'S PAGE

This is always the last page to be prepared - the wrapup - the time to tie up loose ends. It's always a time of relief because it means the journal is nearly complete and that the month or more of pre-occupation with it is over for at least a short while.

It is a time of regret that we don't have the time or funds for a more professional job and at the same time one of gratitude for some very obvious steps forward. Except for a few of the very early journals & a special anniversary issue in 1951, this issue is the first "Bingang" to depart from the mimeo format. It's a trial run - I have no idea of what the outcome will be - but any errors should be able to be righted for the Spring journal. I will be mailing the typed pages to Priscilla & the journal will be xeroxed and mailed out from San Francisco.

I extend my appreciation to all who worked with such cooperation and enthusiasm on this journal. The obvious people whose names are already synonymous with "Bingang" in the 70's:

PRISCILLA - In addition to her usual wealth of info on the current Crosby scene on the West Coast, she has also handled the business of having the photos reproduced (a beautiful job by S.F. photographer Donald Jones) and, as already noted, is taking care of the printing & mailing, thereby eliminating the mimeographing chore.

JOE - What can I say? His covers are already indispensable in the view of the members.

FRANK & SHIRLEY - Our British and Australian representatives who keep us posted on news from abroad. We are dependent on them for so much in the way of news & record & tape exchanges. As an aside to Frank, I have the BBC 14-week series recently mailed & am enjoying it immensely. Besides the music, it contains a vast amount of biographical material, narrated by associates of Bing & by Bing himself. As an aside to Shirley, I can't isolate Joey in another room because I have only one room. However, I am happy to report that Joey, the parakeet, has not only learned to endure the typewriter, but he also sings (that sandpapery sound that parakeets make) contentedly along with my Crosby records.

BILL - Bill Osborn mentioned in one of his letters last July that he would be seeing Joe Venuti at the Marine Room. I responded that it would be appreciated if he would consider writing up the act for the journal. Well, as you'll see, Bill not only wrote up the act but furnished "Bingang" with an exclusive interview with Mr. Venuti. It is our cover story, and we're very proud of it!

KEN - His long, superb newsletter speaks for itself. You can imagine the amount of work that went into compiling all that recording info. Ken's first Midwest Chapter newsletter was mailed only to the chapter members but from this point on we hope to incorporate it into each journal so that no-one will miss it.

Those were lengthy thank you's and we don't have space to express them very often, but I thought I'd make an exception this time. It doesn't mention the many other members who, although more in the background, contribute so much by their support, suggestions, news items, etc. All of you are "Bingang" - it wouldn't work without you.

And now a few remaining odds and ends...

Biograph Records has informed me that their Crosby LP was released on October 10th. As I have not seen it in the shops, I do not know whether the club was in fact acknowledged on the jacket. They indicate that they will send it postpaid \$3.98 to anyone in the U.S. only indicating that they are members of the American Club Crosby. It will sell at a higher price in the shops. It will also be distributed overseas so British & Australian members should be able to get copies locally.

Ken Gray reports that American MCA has switched from English Decca to E.M.I. effective January 1, 1974, so the Coral reissues in the planning stages are defunct. Only exception is "Bing and the Andrews Sisters, Vol. 3" which will be available soon and which will include: "Accentuate the Positive," "There's A Fellow Waiting in Poughkeepsie," "High on the List," "Life Is So Peculiar," "You Don't Have to Know the Language," "Apalachicola," Tallahassee," "See You in Bahia," "Live Oak Tree," "Is You Is Or Is You Ain't My Baby," "Cool Water," "South Rampart Street Parade," "There's No Business Like Show Business," "Anything You Can Do I Can Do Better." That means that aside from the 6 Christmas tracks with the Andrews Sisters, the 3 duets with Patti Andrews alone, "Hot Time in the Town of Berlin," and alternate take A of "Victory Polka," these three Coral LP's will feature all Crosby-Andrews Sisters material.

My only other record news to add to Ken's survey are the following items...

There are two additional Totem LP's of interest, as follows (try Pelican for copies)

LP #1001 - JACK TEAGARDEN / FRANK TRUMBAUER "T 'n' T"
Fifteen selections from broadcasts of 1933-1936 that have never been on records before. Dixie Lee/Fare Thee Well To Harlem/I'm So In Love With You/Basin Street Blues/Christmas Night In Harlem/Wildcat/Bouncing Ball/F Blues/Nobody's Sweetheart/Wabash Blues/Flight Of The Haybag/The Old Man Of The Mountain/I'm The Mayor of Alabam'/China Boy. Most selections were taken from the original aluminum transcriptions.

LP #1004 - LUX RADIO THEATER broadcast exactly as heard over CBS
November 8, 1937, "She Loves Me Not" starring Bing Crosby, Joan Blondell, Nan Grey, Sterling Holloway and William Frawley.

The Amalgamated releases (Candid Movie Star Gallery is only a distributor) are:

BING CROSBY-HOPALONG CASSIDY: A MEMORIAL (September, 1973)
The Old Groaner is presented in two fine Western shows with the late great star William Boyd. There is fun and song and good Western action. Also a limited issue for the Western Film Clubs of Memphis.

A WARM AND WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS EVE WITH BING AND FRANK (Nov.1973)
Bing Crosby, The Crosby Boys And Frank Sinatra

In storybook form we hear Bing and Frank retell Christmas past in personal notes and many, many songs of Yule. On hand also in another program of song and fun we have Bing and his kids. Two of the very best shows ever recorded. A perfect gift for everyone on your list. Reserve your copies now!

BING CROSBY: THE FIRST BROADCAST (1931)
Third pressing in limited quantities.

(November, 1973)

This Australian import is a popular album not available in this country for four years. The first pressing brought \$100 from some collectors. Two broadcasts from 1931-1934. It's Bing at the start of it all!

Coming in 1974:

Bing Crosby-Perry Como: Great Duets

To those who bought the Wallaby label LP of the first broadcast, Amalgamated claims that the new third pressing "orange label" is inferior in quality to the "green label," the latter remaining available at the \$15.50 price. The prices on the other Amalgamated LP's listed above will be \$6.00.

Longines is offering a Silver Anniversary Treasury -- "Stormy Weather," "Ole Buttermilk Sky," "Tenderly," "My Prayer," "San Fernando Valley," "Blue of the Night," "When I Take My Sugar to Tea" will be the Crosby items -- all, I assume, from the earlier issues.

There's a "Return of the Big Bands" set available - 17 albums - 1929-1945 - \$5.98 per record or \$70 for complete set. It is also available on tape. Each LP contains 16 songs & includes a wood & vinyl ESS carrying case. Simulated stereo. Bing is heard on the 1932 album only (2 numbers - "I Surrender Dear," "You're Getting To Be A Habit With Me") Order from: E-C Tape Service, 3695 N. 126th St., Brookfield, Wis. 53005.

To those interested in swing, "The Big Band Cavalcade" is offering a 2-record stereo album for \$7.98 (also available on tape) based on their concert tour. The place to contact is: Big Band Cavalcade, 1352 Division St., Evansville, Indiana 47714.

I was fortunate enough to see the Big Band Cavalcade at the Performing Arts Center in Milwaukee. It was one of those rare performances when the audience & the performers were completely in tune & I know I will never forget it. As the paper remarked, it was like a "Woodstock for the older generation." I'm not sure that's flattering - I'm not that old - in fact, I can barely remember swing - and there were many young people in the audience - but everyone, young and old, was wildly enthusiastic & it was an incredibly exciting evening.

As a result of the above, I'm on a Bob Crosby LP search. Have quite a few, but does anyone have a complete discography? Am

particularly interested in vocals & would like to do a feature on Bob soon. Any help greatly appreciated!

To switch to books, I have only two to recommend this time - The Amazing Careers of Bob Hope by Joe Morella, Edward Z. Epstein, Eleanor Clark, Arlington House, 1973 - many anecdotes & pictures involving Bing - Marion Davies: a biography by Fred Lawrence Guiles, McGraw-Hill, 1972 - also available now in paperback - anecdotes involving the "Going Hollywood" filming & a pic. of Bing & Marion in the "We'll Make Hay While the Sun Shines" number.

After much correspondence with Candid Movie Star Gallery, we've come up with this best possible offer:

- 10 or under - \$1.00 per picture (they will mail directly)
- 15 or up to 25 - \$.75 per picture (they will mail the photos to me & I must distribute, amounting to \$1.00 per picture per member anyway)
- 25 or up - \$.75 per picture (they will mail directly)

I know many of you have already advised me of your interest, but, please, send me an immediate order again now. We want to begin this in January if enough members are interested. I have the 1973 set of photos and they are indeed excellent.

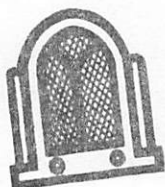
If any of you ordered the Cremo Directory from Larry Kiner as advertised in our summer newsletter, please be advised that Larry still has all the checks & is awaiting better results before he decides whether to continue the project or return the checks. This is indeed disheartening. Those of us who collect Crosby seriously need the Cremo directory! Larry, in turn, needs 100 orders to warrant publishing. Please - even if you don't collect seriously - if you're at all interested in having Bing's career documented - do support this research! It's only a \$2.50 investment on your part & you'll be contributing to the only publication of the Cremo portion of Bing's career. If Larry has to abandon this project, your checks will be returned but, frankly, it will be a blow to those of us who want to spend the time for this type of research but need interested subscribers to break even. The address is: Larry Kiner, 7554 132nd Ave. N.E., Kirkland, Washington 98033.

Volume Two "Stay Tuned For Bing...."

Directory & Log of the

BING CROSBY 'CREMO SINGER'

Radio Series: November 1931 - February 1932



\$2.50



This directory & log lists all data on this early radio series including dates, songs, personnel, origin, etc....

LIMITED EDITION SO ORDER NOW!

a must for BING CROSBY buffs



My proposed article, "Collecting Crosby on Tape and Cassette," has to be postponed until next issue due to the lack of space. I had no idea when I began the project that I would be encountering literally dozens of companies & individuals offering Crosby material for sale on tape. If any of you who offer tapes for sale would like to be included on this survey, please contact me.

Also postponed till next issue is "1937 Revisited" - hopefully, we'll have room for a Crosby retrospective of this type once a year.

There are always a few overriding feelings as one completes a journal. One, outlined earlier, is appreciation & gratitude to all of you for being such a great group - I consider myself very lucky to have met so many of you in person or through letters. The other is awe over the vitality of Bing Crosby himself. I don't like the term "senior citizen" but do you know of many others of his age group who hosted a golf tournament for national TV, worked to have an international golf tournament established in Mexico (and bought a home there in the bargain), appeared in person to promote the Electrovision production, "The New York Experience," televised a Christmas special in Sun Valley, two "American Sportsman" TV shows, two specials with Bob Hope and Carol Burnett, exchange guest spots on Hope's and Burnett's shows & a guest appearance on the Flip Wilson TV Show, golfed in Scotland, gone partridge shooting in Spain, took his family on an African safari, recorded a single for Daybreak Records, and even added that he wouldn't be adverse to shooting a film if the proper script could be found? And there are still two months left this year!

If I have any regrets as I contemplate the Crosby year 1973, it would be that we don't get nearly enough in the way of recordings - new or reissues. As much as I enjoy the news items & the TV appearances, it is still Crosby, the vocalist, who reigns supreme in my affections. I guess an anecdote submitted by member Phil Smith sums it up best. He remarked that a doll-collector friend in her early 70's visited them this past year and that they decided to play some old tapes for her, including in their selection Bing's rendition of "Dear Old Girl." The lady listened intently to the song & then remarked -- "Heavenly Father, do you suppose there'll ever be anyone else who'll be able to sing like that man could?"

* * * * *



Bing Crosby

July 6, 1973

Dear Patricia:

Thank you for your letter, and I'm pleased to learn of your efforts to increase the membership and improve the quality of the Club's publication, "BINGANG".

I think Bob Roberts is probably your greatest source for material - although a man named Vernon Wesley Taylor, Box 475, Federal Station, Portland, Oregon, 97207, seems to have quite a voluminous collection, and possibly could supply you with some additions to the list you're compiling.

There are others too, but Roberts and Taylor seem to be in possession of a great deal of data.

Yes, I have made a record this year - a song called, "It's Not Where You Start, It's where You Finish" from the Broadway musical, "See Saw", and they've backed it up with a song called, "Tie A Yellow Ribbon Round the Old Oak Tree".

I don't know when this is going to be released. Daybreak Records was issuing it in England in connection with a 14 week BRC radio program about me and my career. Bob Roberts would know more about this.

I'm going to have my secretary look around and see

if she can find any photographs that would be useful for the Journal.

All best wishes to you and the Club -

Your friend,


Bing Crosby

HC:lm

Last minute phone calls tonight with Priscilla in San Francisco and Ken in Chicago result in some last minute news items...

From Priscilla, a beautiful letter from Kathryn Grant Crosby.

From Ken, the following news on some more obscure record items...

Star-Tone 213 - Judy and Her Partners in Rhythm & Rhyme - duet with Bing on "Maybe It's Because" (radio air shot)

Eddie Condon album - World of Jazz - 2-record Columbia set KG-31564 - alternate take (unissued) of "Stay on the Right Side" (probably Take B)

Pardon My Blooper - PMB-4 - Includes last chorus only of "Wrap Your Troubles in Dreams" - Liberty Library Corp., 250 West 57th St., New York, N.Y. 10019 - Order No. 891654 - \$4.98.

Greatest Hits of the Century - Tele House, Box 5679, Terre Haute, Indiana 47805 - 4 albums - \$6.98 LP or \$9.99 cartridge tape - 2 of the albums feature Bing (The 30's - Pennies From Heaven; The 40's - Swinging on a Star, I'll be Seeing You)

Bix Beiderbecke - Vol. 1 - OFC-12 - Lovable
" " " 2 - OFC-22 - My Pet (Whiteman version?)
" " " 3 - OFC-28 - no Bing
" " " 4 - OFC-34 - You Took Advantage of Me
From Monday On (Take 4)

Above available from:

Jeff Forsythe, 14 Jason Lane, Mamaroneck, N.Y. 10543

Bix & Tram - Australian Swaggie S1269 - Mississippi Mud w/Trumbauer - also on English Parlephone PMC-7100 and American Folkways FJ 2807 - the latter also has an issue featuring Louisiana, FJ 2804)

Good news is that the "Day Dreaming" Coral release will also be issued. Complete data is not yet available but these titles will be included: Day Dreaming, I'd Know You Anywhere, You Are the One, Darling Je Vous Aime Boucoup, Maybe, Somebody Loves You, Miss You.

* * * * *

SUBSCRIPTION NEWS - X - Your subscription expires with this issue.

XX - Your subscription expired with the last issue. This issue is sent as a courtesy copy, but it is the last copy you will receive unless you renew.

0 - Gift or courtesy copy.

Please bear in mind that if your name appeared in the June issue as being in arrears in your dues, this issue marks the end of your subscription if you paid between June and October, 1973. If your records don't agree with ours, please contact us immediately so we can make amends.

REPORT FROM THE WEST COAST

By: Priscilla Koernig

Hi Members,

This is going to be quite a short article this time as there's not been too much news recently. However, I have sent quite a number of letters, clippings, etc. to Pat already to lessen her last minute rush of putting together the journal.

First of all I want to thank all of you for your notes with your renewals and at other times. We appreciate hearing from you, and although time doesn't always allow one to answer each of you individually, I do want to acknowledge all your letters at this time. Also, on renewals, if you've been looking at the endorsement on the back of your cancelled checks, I have been adding "Thank you for renewing" before endorsing the check. Funds prevent us from sending membership cards out with renewals, so only new members will receive these.

I've been quite busy obedience training my two German Shephard dogs, so this takes more time out of each day and weekends to add to the commuting during the week, etc. Saturday mornings are tied up with Obedience School and of course weekly cleaning must be done Saturday afternoons, so that leaves only Sunday for a day to relax or do house repairs, gardening or other things that need attending to once in awhile. So, I'm sure you'll all understand why I don't always write to you.

During my first week of taking my younger dog Heidi to Obedience School she was very excited and nervous about her new experience. She broke my watch without my noticing it at first. When I went back to look for it before class started, I couldn't find it and was very upset as it was given to me by someone very close to me. I thought of the possibility that with rushing out of the house to get to school that particular morning I had forgotten to put it on. Took Heidi thru the hour class (Schatzi's, my other dog's class, is first) & then rushed home. My watch wasn't there. I drove back up to school which is held near my house & everyone was gone but the trainers; otherwise, they would have announced my loss over the microphone. So, I again retraced my steps--very upset over losing my sentimental gift. There was my watch separated from the bracelet but lying close to each other on the lot. I drove right to the Peninsula Clock Shop on 25th Avenue in San Mateo where I had had an old clock that was my mother's converted from electricity to battery as parts were no longer available for it. They put my watch back together for me. While I was waiting, I noticed a picture of the whole Crosby family on the wall framed with a xerox copy of one of Bing's checks for \$80 or \$90. So, I mentioned this to Bing in one of my letters to him and this is what he was referring to in his opening statement.

My thanks to Joe Sinnott for the inserts which arrived last week and for the covers which are on their way. You do such a tremendous job, Joe.

A few notes of interest - a lady I work with told me that she has friends in Hillsborough who have told her that they really appreciate

all the work that Kathryn volunteers to the community there. They think very highly of Kathryn in Hillsborough. Also, the Guadalajara article was brought to me by one of our Liaison Officers, Larry Serna, who takes care of a payroll company where Bing drops in quite frequently. In fact, Larry told me that he just missed seeing Bing one day by about five minutes. So, I told Larry that if he ever does run into Bing there to go over and talk to him and mention that he works with me. Larry did bring back the paper from the company and he showed it to me as everyone in the office knows I'm a Crosby fan (I guess mainly because of getting off for the tournament each year). Told him I would love to have a copy of the paper and he immediately phoned the payroll company and they mailed an extra copy to him for me. Also, Kathryn appeared in Oakland the other night at the reopening of the rebuilt old Paramount Theatre there. Now, on to the few news clippings --

S.F. Examiner, Art Rosenbaum, August 1973--Bing Crosby won't be around his Hillsborough hacienda much for the next few months. The easy-going crooner has joined the jet age. To Alaska and fishing for TV's "The American Sportsman," to Scotland for golf, an African safari, partridge shooting in Spain. He'll taper off with two TV specials with Bob Hope and Carol Burnett.

S.F. Chronicle, Herb Caen, August 17, 1973--Good morrow, and I do wish Bing Crosby and David Sacks would consult their dictionary for the definition of the word "miasma." After finding out what it means they may stop advertising their "San Francisco Experience" discovery film, at Ghirardelli Square, as "A Miasma of Sight and Sound!!!"--unless, of course, their show really IS "noxious" and "excremental."

S.F. Examiner, Art Rosenbaum, August 16, 1973--Give an assist for Bing Crosby's version of "Tie A Yellow Ribbon Round the Oak Tree" to son Harry, 14. When Harry first heard Bing singing the song, he said the arrangement was "corny." Bing challenged the youngster to improve it--and Harry did just that.

S.F. Examiner, Art Rosenbaum, Feb. 1973--One multi-millionaire's wife has no problem keeping busy. Kathryn Crosby, back from Sun Valley with Bing and the kids after taping the annual Crosby Christmas Show (already!) is now at ACT six hours a day rehearsing for "The Crucible" while appearing in the current "Cyrano de Bergerac." And still working as a volunteer nurse.

S.F. Chronicle, Art Rosenbaum, August 25, 1973--Announcer Lon Simmons and NL president Chub Feeney were in a foursome at Burlingame Country Club recently, and directly behind was a twosome of Bing Crosby and Burlingame pro Maury Ver Brugge. It was decided Crosby and Ver Brugge should play through, but the foursome should drive first. As Crosby and Ver Brugge watched, and possibly contributed a few jocular remarks, Feeney hit a shank (known in baseball as a foul ball) that was lost forever in the trees. Simmons' comment: "Well Chub, there goes your invitation to the Crosby for another year."

S.F. Examiner, Stanley Eichelbaum, Sept. 23, 1973--CURTAINS, UP FOR THE PARAMOUNT--Oakland's Paramount Theater reopened last night with plenty of fanfare, some rain, a few washed-out celebrities and 3000 guests who paid up to \$250 a person for the occasion.

The 43 year old theater was restored, at a cost of \$1 million, to serve as a center for the performing arts.

Last night's opening began with Hollywood premiere type fanfare, lights, drum majorettes, the Caledonian Band of Hayward, and a dozen pickets from Janitors Union Local 121.

A sprinkling of San Francisco society types mixed with a mostly Oakland crowd in drinking warm champagne from plastic cups.

Mayor Alioto who was to attend sent Cyril Magnin. Governor Reagan who was to attend sent his regrets.

A variety show featured such old and new show business names as Rudy Vallee, Milton Berle, Henry Fonda, rock singer Lola Falana, Donald O'Connor, Enzo Stuarti, Metropolitan Opera tenor Jan Peerce, and orchestra leader John Scott Trotter.

The refurbished theater will serve as a home for the Oakland Symphony and other cultural events.

Last night's premiere was a benefit for the theater.

(Editor's comment: The photos accompanying this article include one of Mrs. Bing Crosby and Cyril Magnin)

San Mateo Times, Sept. 24, 1973--BIG BAND NOSTALGIA TOUR DUE--The current wave of nostalgia for the Big Band Sound of the 30's and 40's has inspired Band Leader Freddy Martin to organize a national tour offering a comprehensive view of the various styles of that period. The BIG BAND CAVALCADE gives its retrospective view of the 1935-46 era this week in the Bay Area.

A dance concert at the San Jose Civic Auditorium Sept. 27 at 8:30 p.m. headlines the performance schedule, followed by a listening concert at the Masonic Auditorium, San Francisco, Sept. 29 at 8:30 p.m.

In order to present each distinctive style of the Big Band era, Martin chose Bob Crosby and Margaret Whiting to accompany him, and completed the bill with Art Mooney, Buddy Morrow and Peanuts Hucko. They have been supported by fifteen musicians recruited from the ranks of the most respected sidemen in all the major bands.

(Editor's comment: This cavalcade will appear in concert at the Performing Arts Center in Milwaukee on Oct. 18th and will undoubtedly be appearing soon in your local areas as well)

Bosques de San Isidro, Guadalajara, Mexico, Agosto de 1973, Año 2, No. 14 - OFFICIAL HOUSE OF THE INTERNATIONAL BING CROSBY OPEN - With a 100,000 dollar purse at stake, the "Bing Crosby Open"--one of golfing's major international events--will be played at Guadalajara's new San Isidro Country Club early next year.

The club's professional, Jose Gonzalez, said top professional and amateur golfers from the United States and many other countries would compete in the event, including such stars as Jack Nicklaus, Arnold Palmer, Lee Trevino and others.

The 100,000 dollar purse, Gonzalez added, will be the largest golfing prize offered in Mexican history.

In Guadalajara last week to initiate arrangements for the tournament, the motion picture and television star Bing Crosby also purchased a three bedroom, two and one-half bath residence at the Bosques de San Isidro residential development at the country club, Gonzalez said. Furnishings for the home are being bought in Colima under direction of Crosby's interior decorator.

The "Bing Crosby Open," held in past years at Pebble Beach, Cal., and other sites including Mexico, draws not only some of the world's best golfers but sports, motion picture and entertainment figures from around the world.

Proceeds from entry fees and spectator admission charges above tournament costs will go to charity, spokesmen said.

Crosby, a frequent visitor in Guadalajara over the last several

months, played at both the city's Atlas and San Isidro courses last week before departure for Mexico City and San Francisco, Cal.

The entertainer maintains a permanent home south of La Paz, Baja California, but travels widely on his varied business interests. He also is an ardent golfer, hunter and fisherman at 69 years of age, and recently expressed a desire to engage in occasional television and motion picture work again if the proper vehicles develop.

CROSBY PREDICTS--"GUADALAJARA WILL BE THE GOLFING CAPITAL OF THE WORLD." "Guadalajara will be the golfing capital of the world before very long," noted entertainer Bing Crosby predicted here last week.

On another of his frequent visits to the city over the last several months, the motion picture and television star and sports promoter made a formal call on Jalisco Governor Alberto Orozco Romero to outline general plans for a series of major golf tournaments in the city in coming years.

Crosby confirmed reports he and his associates have formed an association with the city's Bosques de San Isidro residential development and allied San Isidro Golf Club to promote the meets.

The first competition, tentatively scheduled for Dec. 12 to 17 of this year, will bring 25 top women golfers of the United States to the course while a major men's tournament is planned to coincide with Guadalajara's "October Festivals" next year.

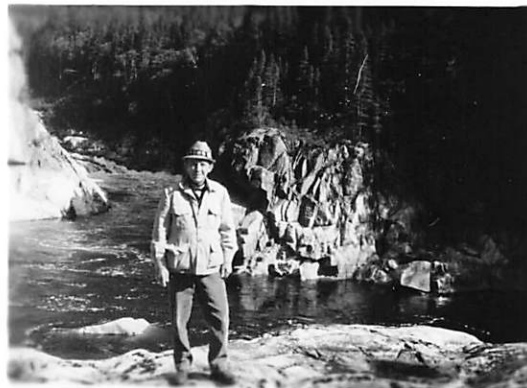
The entertainer, who recently purchased a winter home at Bosques de San Isidro, has played golf at or inspected most of the area courses and last week was made an honorary member of the recently formed Jalisco Golf Association.

"I've loved Mexico since I made my first visit to the country in 1937," Crosby said Wednesday at a Chapala luncheon given in his honor by the president of the Jalisco Hotel and Motel Association and Guadalajara Visitors and Convention Bureau, Guillermo Martinez Gutron.

"And of all the places in Mexico, the city I like best is Guadalajara and the sport I like best is golf," Crosby said. "Certainly Guadalajara will be the golfing capital of the world before very long, and the Bosques de San Isidro course is one of the best I have ever seen."

Crosby was also a guest at a luncheon given by the Jalisco office of the National Tourism Council before his departure for San Francisco.

* * * * *



Bing Crosby

May 30, 1973

Dear Priscilla:

I want you to know that I'm very grateful to you for thinking about me on my birthday.

I received your greetings, and I appreciate them very much -

Warmest personal regards,

Bing

Bing Crosby

Bing

July 31, 1973

Dear Priscilla:

Thanks for your nice letter and for the little story about the Peninsula Clock Shop.

I have cut a record this year - "It's Not Where You Start, It's Where You Finish". It was made for the close of the BBC 14 week series.

This is backed by "Tie A Yellow Ribbon Round the Old Oak Tree".

It is scheduled to be released in August, I believe* -

All the best,

Bing

Bing Crosby

* over here - by Daybreak Records.

RF

October 24, 1973

Dear Priscilla,

Things have been very exciting this year.

Bing has just returned from Africa, Paris, Switzerland and London - and by that time he expected the children to be all settled in school. And for a miracle they are!

Harry, at fifteen, is doing a lot of work in choir and studying music, harmony and theory outside of school. He's also doing very well in Latin, geometry and English, and all those good things.

Nathaniel at eleven is in the 7th grade, and just took a young lady to a dance for the first time.

Mary Frances is in Mexico City. Seems to be adjusting very well. Going to school all in Spanish, and making lots of nice friends.

We have an exchange student this year. Her name is Marie Teresa Caso. Mary Frances is living with her parents and brothers and sisters in Mexico, and Marie Tê is our intercombio, or exchange student. We couldn't have a sweeter child living with us. Nathaniel is becoming very gallant, and Harry's even teaching her how to play the guitar.

It's going to be an exciting year for us. I am working with ACT, and Harry and I did the Mike Douglas Show. We had a lot of fun, and I will be touring, I think, in the spring with the play, "I Do, I Do".

It's going to be a good year for all of us. I hope it's going to be a good year for all the people who follow Bing's career and care about him as we all do here.

Sincerely,

Kathryn

Kathryn Crosby

Miss Priscilla Koernig
1423 Oak Street
San Mateo, Ca.

REPORT FROM DOWN UNDER

By: Shirley Naylor

Well, this is Shirley Naylor once again reporting from Down Under and running late (not bear) as usual, have been waiting for Crosby news but sad to say there hasn't been anything since Christmas.

Received the June journal with the fab cover of Bing, it was simply great, very pleased with the snaps and so glad they are being kept. Pat has done a wonderful job with the journal and the little newsletters. Was very sorry to hear that the club was in trouble, but glad everything has been settled. It would have been a great catastrophe if the club had folded after all the years it's been going so many thanks to Larry & Bing for being so kind.

What an awful shock it was to see so many prominent Aussies who haven't renewed their fees, it only takes a little time and if they do not wish to continue membership it's only manners to write to Priscilla or Pat who very kindly sent a journal out without payment. This only helps to put financial strain on the club so please renew your subscription as soon as possible when the "X" appears on the envelope. Thank you.

Most folk say "Thank Heavens for Little Girls" but I say "Thank Heavens for Priscilla." Without her help, I wouldn't have half my Crosby material or photos. One of my now cherished possessions is the 1973 32nd Crosby golf programme, the first one I have ever seen. Then the wonderful article from the "Ladies Home Journal" with the super photo of Bing and Mary Frances (does anyone know where I could get a copy of that please?) & the wonderful snaps of the Lagunda Honda Show and the golf tournament; my album is again looking healthy with new snaps. I hadn't put any snaps in since 1965 so am now up to date at last thanks to Mary Brown who sent me a lot of early ones and of course Priscilla.

There has been no major release of Bing's discs though some of those I reviewed earlier are doing the rounds of the variety stores--many Coles and Woollies. Was pleased to hear from Pat of Bing's new release, "Tie A Yellow Ribbon Round the Old Oak Tree" and "It's Not Where You Start It's Where You Finish" so hope I am lucky enough to get a copy.

The other week I received a letter from Pat which made me chuckle: her pet budgie doesn't like her typewriter--it brought back memories of my Tom-Tom who loved all noises and used to sit on my shoulder whilst I used mine and patter round the table and pink the edges of the pages, so my advice to Pat is use the typewriter and let him put up with it or pop him into another room.

In June of this year I went up north to Darwin, Alice Springs and Kunnurra. I had a very interesting trip seeing all my history lessons coming to life a bit late but better late than never. When we went up it was as dry as a bone but on the way back it had rained and everything looked so different, green was breaking through and there would soon be an abundance of wild flowers. The famous Todd River was running at the Alice and a wonderful sight to see although I was appalled at the vandalism--names painted all over the Devils Marbles and the lovely big babob trees with names all over them and

peoples initials carved in large letters on the trunks--it was hard to get a decent slide. I bought myself a didgeridoo (an aboriginal wind instrument--I bought a pair of singing sticks when I was up there 4 years ago) The first time I blew into it I was nearly suffocated with smoke, as to clean the limb out it has to be burnt, so have been having a lot of fun trying to play it. It is only a small one, 3' 7" long, red/black/white with yellow lizards and was made in Arnhem Land.

My friend Mary Brown will have an article in the journal so it will be interesting to have a look into the New Zealand side of the Crosby scene as Mary is the eldest member down this way. I enjoyed John Purches' article in the last journal so come on Aussies please write a little about yourself and Bing.

Well, Dottie Lamour has made it to Australia so that means that two of the road folk have made it down under--so what about Bing? The Daily Mirror (20/8/73) DOROTHY'S ROAD TO AUSTRALIA--WE'LL SEE HER which to my way of thinking should have read BING'S ROAD TO AUSTRALIA --WE'LL SEE HIM. This article DOT'S BACK ON THE ROAD appeared in the Daily Telegraph August 28th with two photos in her sarong in the 30's and arrival in Sydney wearing a pants suit, a bouquet, sun glasses, and leis. "Batting huge false eyelashes and garlanded with Hawaiian leis, the sarong girl of the 1930's and 40's, Dorothy Lamour, arrived in Sydney yesterday. Accompanied by her husband of 30 years, William Howard, the former pinup girl is here for a song and dance act at the South Sydney Junior Leagues Club. Now 50, Miss Lamour became famous in her roles with Bob Hope and Bing Crosby in the 'On Road Series.' 'Bing and Bob and myself don't see each other very much these days, we are all too busy, but occasionally we get together,' Miss Lamour said. And those sexy sarongs that drove thousands of males mad? 'Now and again I slip one on,' she smiled. 'But I think by today's standards those sarongs were about as sexy as long underwear.' Even so, one of her sarongs brought \$50,000 recently at an auction in the United States and another is preserved in the Smithsonian Institute in Washington D.C. Miss Lamour said she preferred comedy to serious roles 'because I don't think I am that good an actress. I get more enjoyment out of giving people a few hours of laughter--it's music to my ears,' she said. 'I think I will stay on the stage just as long as I'm alive.'"

Many thanks to David Rapp for his letter and glad he likes reading my article. It makes it worthwhile when someone takes the time to write and let you know--it was greatly appreciated.

Best wishes to you all for Christmas and the New Year. Cheerio until next time.

* * * * *

Last minute news from Priscilla---There's a new book available from England---write to your English friends to order---approximate cost £3.00, entitled "Sinatra and the Great Song Stylists" by Ken Barnes, Ian Allen, Publisher, London. Bing is mentioned in this book.

Also, someone's car ran out of control at 5:00 A.M. Sat. Morn., Oct. 27 and knocked down Bing's fence, waking the whole household, and was stopped by a tree. Thank goodness the Crosby family wasn't hurt in this unfortunate accident.

A LETTER FROM MARY BROWN - NEW ZEALAND

Congratulations on the journal. It is an excellent effort. As a close friend of the late Thelma Hardie, I know how much money, time and thought goes into every journal. When Thelma took over from Barbara Woodfine (nee Doggett) the Southern Cross Branch put out its own journal with material from the American one and items of local interest.

At that time there was a large membership in Australia but fan clubs as such were unknown in New Zealand. There were only ten members, all of whom had seen an advertisement in an Australian magazine. Thelma was a good leader, and she soon had many new members.

A girl wrote from the North Island to say that she once had a Crosby club but couldn't keep it going. I don't doubt her sincerity but she didn't have the know-how. She was probably very young at the time. It was a joint club for Bing and some obscure actor whose name I have forgotten. I think it was during the war years. If she had put an advertisement in a popular magazine she would have had to hire a secretary to help her cope. No other singer has been so popular as Bing was at that time.

As the years went by, girls married and had other interests so did not renew. Bing was semi-retired and younger singers took over, so the membership dropped. When Thelma passed on, that was the end of the club in New Zealand. My good friend, Shirley Naylor, did her best but there isn't anything one can do when people don't reply to letters. I am now the sole survivor and am probably the oldest club member. I have been a Crosby fan since 1932 when I saw one of the short films Bing made at the beginning of his career. Appropriately it was titled "Where the Blue of the Night Meets the Gold of the Day."

Over the years that followed I saw all the wonderful musicals in which he starred. Those were the days. They don't make films like that anymore.

The snap of Bing, Edgar Bergen and Dorothy Lamour in the June journal is interesting. All did a good job during the war years. At that time the U.S. Marines came to New Zealand on leave. Our radio stations broadcast Command Performance and other U.S. programs. The New Zealand people enjoyed them as much as did the American boys.

On one of our local radio stations there's a Thursday night request session for the over 50's called the 51 Club. That's when Bing comes into his own again. It's surprising what comes up. Twice recently "Just A Gigolo" was requested. I had forgotten that one. The announcer said it was first recorded in 1931. That must have come from what they refer to as their archives in Timaru.

Incidentally, long before Bing called himself "Lucky" I was writing for radio requests (songs by Bing) using the nom-de-plume "Lucky." I still use it. My luck hasn't been so spectacular as Bing's but I have had a good life. I have always lived and worked in pleasant places, had sufficient to eat, and enough money to get by.

* * * * *

REPORT FROM GREAT BRITAIN

By: Frank Murphy

Greetings to all Bingang members from the U.K. - as you will see from my notes and enclosures this time we are enjoying quite a time Bing-wise in this part of the world.

Old steam radio has played a major part of the Bing scene here and Bing's new single, "Tie A Yellow Ribbon," has been receiving plenty of plays - alas it's distribution hasn't lived up to this and I've been trying for two whole weeks to buy the copies I require. I'm hopeful I can obtain these within the next week and the present source sounds more hopeful - unfortunately Dawn and Perry Como stole a march on Bing and it looks like retailers decided not to stock a third version of an already well plugged hit parade song. I have to state also that I am unimpressed with Bing's version and the backing by an atrocious dixieland group is just way out of touch with today's scene. Bing couldn't have known at the time of recording that his version would be getting the kind of action it is here and I'm sure it would have succeeded if a chorus and better backing had been tied up with Bing's fair version. As it stands now, I wish the maestro hadn't done it. The backing, "It's Not Where You Start It's Where You Finish," is a shade better, so is the backing dixielanders, but this is one single we could have done without, and I wish the British scene had plugged "Where the Rainbow Ends" the same as this one, the maestro would have sold a bomb on Rainbow.

Decca has issued a further Coral titled "Bing and the Dixieland Bands." This is the 3rd time we've had this particular set here and it looks like they are going to go through the Ace of Hearts titles and issue them on Coral - what a disappointing thought after 5 superb Coral issues of some really fabulous Crosbyana. We'll keep hoping for some better news on the Coral scene and if any comes to hand I'll pass it on.

MGM has re-released the old Bing and Louis tracks, "Muskrat Ramble," etc. in a set titled "The Special Magic of Bing and Louis" - we've had this one twice here too so you can see we've a little to beef about in the duplications scene, but I suppose the re-issues do get Bing back into the shops and I see some of the tracks on this Bing/Louis set are finding their way onto Radio 2.

I think BBC TV and ITV, our main two TV outlets, must have declared a ban Bing on TV for it seems ages since we've had a Crosby film here, especially in the North East. I know "Little Boy Lost" has been seen around the Midlands but when you think of Bing's enormous film output it doesn't seem possible we'd have such a long spell without a Crosby film on TV. "The King of Jazz" makes its TV debut shortly though and I'm looking forward to my first glimpse of this historic film on TV.

Got myself a sound movie projector recently and bought two short versions of Bing's Mack Sennett shorts, "Where the Blue of the Night" and "Sing Bing Sing" - it's just great to be able to sit in one's home and watch the early maestro sing in these great shorts.

Unfortunately, there's nothing else on Bing available here on Super 8 film but again I'm hopeful things might brighten up in the future.

I'm enclosing details of a series of broadcasts I'm doing on the hospitals here in the North East. I'm keeping copies of the tapes and may issue them later if any members want copies - the patter is good (ha ha) and the music, well, need I say more. I sent Bing all the news on these with a photo of the poster in the foyer of the Bingclub, Hepburn, Co. Durham, where I work, and he was very pleased with the action.

Bing wrote - ".....Pleased indeed to hear of the activity you're engendering over there on Radio Tyneside. I'm sure that it will do a lot of good work in my behalf - and I do want to wish the program great success whenever it appears." Bing kindly closed his letter - "All best wishes to you and your staff" - and I thought that was a particularly nice gesture.

Finally to the current tapes available. As I was saying earlier, BBC Radio 2 has been doing Bing proud recently and, following the mammoth 14-week series on Bing which you all know about, we've recently had a full hour on Jolson which was very good. I've taped this because Bing guested on the show & sang "My Blue Heaven" with Al from one of their radio shows together. This coming Sunday, Dorothy Lamour will be telling Bob Hope's life story - the show will last two weeks - so we'll have a further two hours on tape - a great guest list is lined up, with Bing of course. I'll list the tapes available on a separate sheet and you can let me know which you want.

And so members, I'll look forward to hearing from you at any time and would also mention that together with my good friend John Maugham I shall be visiting the states next year and hope it will be possible to meet as many of you as possible on the trip - more about this later - best regards always.

BING WRITES TO HOSPITAL RADIO DJ - Peter Anthony - The Journal - Sept. 25, 1973 - A weekly 15-minute spot on local hospital radio featuring Bing Crosby has attracted the attention of the Old Groaner himself.

The maestro has written to the show's presenter, Frank Murphy, sending his personal wishes for good luck with the venture.

Frank's series of programmes are broadcast over Radio Tyneside, the hospital network on Saturday afternoons. Frank, of Ferndale Avenue, Wallsend, is a devoted Crosby fan and has met Bing several times as well as exchanging letters with him regularly.

Bing's letter said: "I want to wish the programme great success."

Frank said yesterday: "From personal experience I know that this is typical of Bing. Nothing concerning his fans is too small for him to bother with. He is especially interested in hospital broadcasting work and often does work for the Los Angeles hospital station. His wife Katherine is herself a nurse."

Frank, a 42-year-old bingo hall manager, has a massive collection of records and tape recordings of Bing and he is also a keen collector of "Crosbyana." He is a former secretary of Bing's British fan club.

FRANK MURPHY'S TAPE SERVICE - When ordering, please state speed and tracks you require, i.e., 3-3/4 or 7-1/2 ips, and 2 or 4 track tape.

Bob Hope - BBC Radio 2 - 2 one hour shows - 1973 - Dorothy Lamour tells the story with all star guest list including Bing - \$8.00.

Bing BBC Radio 2 - 14 one-hour shows - 1973 - Priceless encyclopedia of Crosbyana with an all star guest list -

Recorded on OP 7 reels 2 track - \$37.50 - 7-1/2 ips

Recorded on SP 7 reels 2 track - \$25.50 - 3-3/4 ips

The Bing Crosby Story - 2 one-hour shows - BBC Home Service - 1960's - Personal messages to BBC and UK from Bing - \$8.00.

(Editor's comment: Frank has also indicated that he will supply Ace of Hearts albums to members at \$3.00 apiece, plus \$1.00 postage, for a total per disc of \$4.00 - minimum of two albums per parcel. He will also make available to members the Daybreak single, DAS 402, "Tie A Yellow Ribbon" and "It's Not Where You Start" for \$1.40 plus postage. He suggests that interested members contact me regarding the latter so that the records can be posted bulk, and I will mail them out directly from here.)

* * * * *

LARRY KINER'S RECORD SERVICE - 7554 132nd Ave. N.E., Kirkland, Washington 98033.

Larry is stocking the following Crosby LP's & is offering them at \$5.00 each to members mentioning "Bingang" when ordering. The U.S. postage charge is 25¢ per LP, Outside U.S. \$1.40 for the first LP & 25¢ each additional LP.

Totem #1002 - Philco Radio Time - 10/16/46 & 2/19/47

Totem #1003 - Philco Radio Time - 3/5/47 & 4/2/47

Pelican #104 - "Bing"

RCA LPV-584 - "Wrap Your Troubles in Dreams"

Daybreak DR-2014 - "Bing 'N Basie"

Daybreak DR-2006 - "A Time To Be Jolly"

MGM E/SE-4203 - "The Very Best of Bing Crosby"

Reprise F-2015 - "Finian's Rainbow"

MGM E-4242 - "The Very Best of Gershwin"

Star Tone ST-205 - "The Feminine Touch"

Star Tone ST-206 - "Singing Troubadors on the Air"

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MEMORY TRAILS, 349 E. Cooke Rd., Columbus, Ohio 43214

Crosby Classics - \$5.00

Bing & Satchmo - \$5.00

Old Masters - Vol. 1 - \$7.00

Bing Crosby & the Andrews Sisters - \$7.00

Gershwin, The Very Best of - \$5.00

Great Moments From Old Time Radio - \$5.00

Rare Style - \$9.00

The Very Best of Bing Crosby - \$5.00

Gang Sing Along - \$5.00

All Mint, Postpaid

Submitted by Priscilla Koernig, Minnie Levy, Elsie Schweer, Chet Rose

ADDIE'S WORLD by Adalene Ross - San Mateo Times - 4/23/73 thru 5/4/73

World traveler Bing Crosby names the world's 10 greatest golf courses exclusively for this column.

For all you golfers who wouldn't think of taking off on a trip without your clubs, Bing's list is for you to clip and save.

"These are the 10 courses I most enjoy playing," reveals early-riser Bing in our crack-of-dawn interview in the library of the Crosby French manor house in Hillsborough (only minutes away from half a dozen courses including one that's on his list)

The library is filled with a dedicated sportsman's collector's items, which nearly upstage Bing's 1944 "Going My Way" Oscar on the fireplace mantel. There are stunning shooting scenes on the walls, a leatherbound book of programs from 26 annual Pebble Beach Pro-Am golf tournaments known around the world as "The Crosby," and a statuette of Bing's 1963 Irish Derby winner, Meadow Court.

Bing--suntanned and slim in grey slacks and a pale green, soft wool shirt with cuffs he hasn't bothered to button all the way, and a watch worn reverse-fashion with the face on the inside of his wrist--puffs his good-smelling pipe and ticks off his Big 10:

1. Cypress Point. "Scenically very beautiful. A genuine test of golf without requiring a lot of lift off the tee. A course always magnificently groomed, with spectacular holes along the ocean and deep in lovely pines. The most attractive landscape in the world."

2. Muirfield, Scotland. "A championship course. The perfect example of a course by the sea. If you let them know you're coming, they'll prepare a marvelous lunch for you."

3. St. Andrews, Scotland. "Here golf was born. It's your typical Scottish links along the water. A great course without all the usual country club amenities--just a place to change your clothes and wash your face."

4. Pebble Beach. "The architects of Pebble Beach left nature be their guide. Rather than bringing in tractors and pushing things around, they designed the course to complement the beauty nature provided. The sand, the slopes, the trees--they didn't touch a thing."

5. Seminole, Fla. "A beautiful course in a stunning setting. Eighteen great holes, all different, presenting new situations to be overcome, in a setting of sea, tropical foliage and gorgeous flowers."

6. Morte-fontaine, France. "Very pretty, with lots of flowers and an old castle for a clubhouse. A great environment, just being in France. A pleasant course, not really tough." Bing added: "I don't like the tough courses. In my declining years, I don't want to get involved."

7. Pine Valley, N.J. "Deep in the woods. Not too long a course, but a great test of accuracy. You think it's going to be easy, but it's not. Tough traps and a rough that's difficult to get out of. I've had some good rounds here and some bad ones."

8. San Francisco Golf Club. "Strictly for the dedicated golfer. Holes all interesting. And good food."

9. The Champion's Club, Houston, Tex. "Two 18-hole courses put together by two great professionals, Jack Burke and Jim Demarest. They used all the knowledge of their years on tour to plan something outstanding, and they accomplished it."

10. Augusta National Golf Club, Augusta, Ga. "A world-famous course laid out by Bobby Jones. The Masters, always the biggest

tournament of the year, is played here. Magnificent holes, beautifully groomed, in a setting of Georgia pines, azaleas and dogwood. One of the most beautiful places to play I've ever seen."

Bing, who's a six handicap and vows he'll play "on anything with sand and green," lists his 10 courses as they come to mind and not necessarily in order of preference.

In any case, Cypress Point would surely be first on his list, for he once made a hole-in-one there on the famous par three, sixteenth hole. "I was elated," Bing said, "and it endeared Cypress to me forever."

Bing Crosby clicks off the telephone-intercom in the richly-panelled tapestry-pillowed library of his Hillsborough home--so he will not be disturbed as he discusses his favorite subject, the pursuit of glorious sporting places around the world (thereby to provide you with tips for your travels)

"I don't know anything about yachting or polo," Bing offers. Which only means he doesn't CARE about yachting or polo. If he did, he'd own a yacht and stable of ponies second to none. Such is the uncompromising way he approaches his dedicated life as a sportsman.

"Fishing and shooting are my passion," Bing says. "They've always been a part of my life. My father was a fine sportsman and, through him, I've kept at it."

Bing, who's as handsome today as in the first Crosby movie you ever saw, has travelled the U.S. and England, Scotland, Africa, Mexico and Argentina to seek the sportsman's ultimate paradises. And found them.

"The greatest fishing places? British Columbia and Alaska for salmon, and the Canadian rivers for Atlantic salmon.

"British Columbia and Canada are unsurpassed for their magnificent trout streams, and all that clear sky and clean air.

"Florida is the place for bonefish and tarpin. You can't beat Mexico for marlin, sailfish and tuna.

"Iceland is great for salmon. We (unpretentious Bing seldom uses the first-person) made a film there for ABC's 'American Sportsman' TV show.

"Iceland is unique. A clean, well-run country. They're now developing tourism there based on the well-deserved attraction of adventurous fishing in a beautiful setting."

Bing lights his pipe--with an ordinary kitchen-variety match from a silver container--and considers the challenging birds.

"The best duck shooting in the U.S. is in Marysville, principally because of the many rice fields in the area.

"The finest quail shooting is in South Texas, Alabama and Georgia. For pheasants, probably the best shooting is in North and South Dakota, particularly around the small towns."

Bing even enjoys climbing out of a warm bed in the early dawn to head for a shivering-cold duck blind, or field. "You get a little adrenalin flowing," he says. "It's good for you."

The Crosby deep freeze is always full of delectable birds from the master's shooting trips.

"We fillet out the breasts of the ducks and freeze them. We have the pheasants smoked and frozen. Quail we pluck and freeze as is." The Crobys have quail and biscuits for breakfast "all the time."

Africa, says Bing, is a fabulous place for the adventurous sportsman-traveler. "Bird shooting is excellent. Sand grouse, dove, guinea fowl, ducks and geese, pheasant, quail, wild pigeon."

The Bing Crosby who's sung--crooned--your favorite songs all these years, from "Sierra Sue" to "White Christmas", doesn't hunt big game and "can't" shoot deer.

"Hunting big game holds no interest. I already have one of everything, and that's enough."

One of everything includes such grand trophies, on display at his Mt. Shasta Rising River Ranch, as a specimen leopard, a waterbuck and a wildebeest--"like our old bison, from a trip to Tanzania."

August is Bing's favorite time for Africa. "We always start out from Nairobi, the center of it all. We fly in little planes two or three hundred miles to join the camps set up ahead of time by the helpers."

"We live in tents and do all our daytime travel by Land Rover. We always end our trips at the Mt. Kenya Safari Club to clean and relax."

For Bing Crosby, the magnificent sight of the herds of elephant, gazelle, impala, buffalo, lion and zebra are enough reason to travel there as often as possible.

"Safari in Africa is an exciting time even if you don't care to fire a shot."

"The Ritz Hotel in Lisbon is my favorite hotel," says Bing Crosby as we continue our interview on one of his favorite subjects, travel.

"The Ritz is the most attractive hotel in the world, with the best service, the loveliest rooms and a great restaurant."

"And I like very much the Connaught in London. It's small, the attention is personal, and it's so centrally located you can walk to the theatres."

"The Ritz in Paris is exquisite. Again, a good location and marvelous service and food."

"The Mauna Kea Hotel, on the big island of Hawaii, is the most splendid resort hotel I've ever been in. The setting, the appointments, the food and service, just excellent."

New York hotels have no character, says Bing. He can't pick a favorite hotel there because they're "all the same" to him.

Hotels barely get a mention when Bing lists his favorite restaurants.

"Of course, there are many good restaurants in Paris, but I find lately a little bistro called Chez Garin to be one of the finest I've encountered."

"Chez Garin is somewhat larger than the usual bistro, and reservations are definitely necessary. A very exciting place to dine."

"In New York, I don't think there's any way you can beat the 21 Club, unless you're looking for some restaurant that specializes in a particular kind of international cuisine."

"At 21 you can always dine well, and you're sure of meeting someone you know there at lunch or dinner."

It's Bing's "regular" place for dining out when he's in the Big City.

"In London, I imagine the best restaurant, and the one that I like the most is the Connaught."

"But there's a little restaurant called Waltons, in Bury Street, that is truly excellent. Highly personalized, small, and you must reserve."

"London's Savoy Grill has always been good. Others come and go, but the Savoy Grill, throughout the years, has always been a fine restaurant."

On Los Angeles: "The best restaurant, in my opinion, is Perino's. When you dine there, you really have the feeling that you are participating in an occasion."

"Chasen's and Scandia are always very good. Scandia has a cuisine oriented in the Scandinavian category, and they have some most unusual dishes of that type. A fine restaurant."

San Francisco is "literally laced" with good restaurants, Bing

says. But he has some certain ones he favors repeatedly.

"I like Sam's, on Bush Street. La Bourgogne, for French cuisine. Jack's on Sacramento Street is an old favorite. And I enjoy the Tadich Grill for great fish dishes.

"But I find myself eating, almost all the time when I go to the City, at Trader Vic's, downtown in Cosmo Place. It's very hard to beat.

"Trader Vic's has a wide variety of various types of cuisine to choose from, and, of course, they have an exciting, extensive Polynesian menu.

"For Spanish and Mexican food, Trader Vic's Senor Pico is outstanding. Not only for food, but for the most attractive decor of the restaurant.

"I've noticed that Senor Pico, located in the handsome Ghirardelli Square complex, is a great favorite with tourists. It's one restaurant where you can take your children."

When Bing Crosby packs for a trip, he just tosses things across the room and hopes they fit the suitcase.

Definitely not your usual packing tip, but that's the way world-traveler Bing Crosby does it, according to the Crosby's stylish, British butler Alan Fisher.

"Mr. Crosby owns every piece of expensive luggage imaginable," Fisher confides to me, in the library of the Crosby residence, as Bing and I continue our interview.

"But he takes off with the absolute minimum of luggage, most often with some old, small, carry-on piece," Fisher says. Fisher hastens to add that "Mr. Crosby is the most organized traveler in the world. All tourists should be like him."

Fisher, who speaks of his celebrated boss in a reverent tone applicable only to a Second Coming, says Bing Crosby always studies his itinerary, plans what clothes he'll need, then packs (albeit in his casual manner) everything, right down to his socks, himself.

If Bing Crosby could pack and take off somewhere this minute, it would be to a place where he could quail shoot.

"I've had enough champagne and caviar," Bing tells me. "But I can never get enough of the excitement of searching for the quail.

"The quail is a sporting bird, smart, unpredictable, a marvelous bird on the table."

Traveling companion for Bing when he goes quail shooting is always one of his beautiful black Labrador Retrievers.

(He's been breeding Labs for 30 years. "Lately we've been getting in some new bloodlines." The "best retriever" he's ever raised is "Spike," the special pet of Bing's 14-year-old son, Harry L. Crosby Jr.)

"England is my favorite country," Bing says, "and I go there as often as possible. Such tradition! Such wonderful people!"

"I plan to take my family there shortly. We're looking for a home in the country for a couple of months. We'd like to be near Ascot, and near the great golf courses there."

(The family is Kathryn, Mrs. Crosby; Bing's only daughter, Mary Frances, 13; Harry, and Nathaniel, 11)

"Australia, they tell me, is beautiful, and I hope to be a tourist there before long. Particularly for the spectacular fishing.

"And I've never been to the Orient, though I'm sure I'd love Hong Kong. It's on my list."

(This from the Bing Crosby who starred, in 1959, with Bob Hope in one of the famous "Road" pictures, "Road to Hong Kong"--for which film, incidentally, this writer was chairman of the world

premiere, in San Francisco, as a benefit for the Easter Seal Society)

"I've recently returned from the Seychelles, in the Indian Ocean," Bing says. He recommends the Seychelles to you as one of the finest, soon-to-be developed tourist places in the world.

"It's definitely not your usual tropical island. There are beautiful mountains and magnificent foliage. A lovely climate and a totally as-yet unspoiled place.

"You can get there by daily jet from Madrid."

However, you're not about to hear Bing Crosby touting Baja, Mexico, as a great tourist spot. He has a house there, on the white sands of the Gulf of Mexico, with naught but peaceful, unspoiled fishing places and clean, clear blue sky overhead.

An influx of tourists to Baja (which may not be unexpected, for word of such a tranquil destination does not long go unheralded) might well alter the quiet, secluded atmosphere of this lovely, isolated place by the sea.

Bing Crosby, who just returned from Sun Valley, Idaho, where he finished filming the 1973 Crosby Family TV Christmas show, declares that he always has a bag ready to be packed with the hope of a trip immediately in the offing.

"Travel is the ultimate great adventure!"

**

Dorothy Manners column - 7/9/73

Kathryn Crosby, who is a qualified teacher and nurse, as well as being Bing's beautiful wife, has been busy with summer school classes around the plush residential district of San Francisco where the family lives. She usually teaches classes between kindergarten and fourth grade. This summer she took on the eighth graders - and got whistles from the boys!

"No, it didn't disturb me," she said. "They got over that form of admiration when they saw the homework I gave them. I understand now they call me Killer Kathy!"



DER BINGLE SAVORS 'THE BIG APPLE' by Ernest Leogrande
New York Sunday News - July 1, 1973

One third of the Rhythm Boys, also known as Harry Lillis, the Groaner or der Bingle, the man who went on the road before Jack Kerouac, Bing Crosby, of course, was in town last week and said New York is a great place to visit and he wouldn't mind living here either, if he didn't already have a place with the wife and kids outside of Beverly Hills.

A man who certainly deserves that label so loosely used, a legend in his own time, Crosby comes across as just plain folks, just your average Mr. Nice Guy millionaire.

How can somebody so rich and famous be so soft-pedal? He laughed and said, "Oh, I don't know. I'm just lazy, I guess. I don't want to waste any energy. I save it for the golf course. That's where your frustrations come in."

It has been said that Crosby, the actor, has been so successful because he always has played himself. Let images flicker across the motion picture screen in your mind and try to visualize a scene in which he is nasty or short-tempered. Even when he's undercutting Fred Astaire or Bob Hope to win back the girl, he does it nice and easy, without malice.

Thirty years ago, Crosby told NEWS columnist Ed Sullivan that when he left the movies all he wanted was to settle down in California with a house, a car and a boat, and do some fishing and golfing, visit the racetracks occasionally, take up some light business and raise a small family.

This is exactly what he has done, except for the part about the light business. Among his enterprises are a 25,000-acre cattle ranch in Nevada, a 15% ownership of the Pittsburgh Pirates and a five state distributorship for Minute Maid frozen juices, for which he and the family do TV commercials.

A new venture for him is a partnership in a company, Electrovision Productions, which has created multi-screen shows, "The San Francisco Experience" and the "Hawaiian Experience." Now, a third tribute has been fashioned, "The New York Experience," which will be presented here by the Trans-Lux Corp. in a new theater being built specifically for it 75 feet underground in the new McGraw-Hill building at 1221 Sixth Ave.

Crosby flew in to lend his personal presence to the formal announcement of "The New York Experience" movie. Movie actually is too limiting a term for this production, which will have images projected on a number of screens and unusual extra effects like billowing fog, Chinese lanterns descending from the ceiling and speakers under the seats to give realism to the rumble of the subway trains, the rattle of the taxis.

The production will be a love letter to New York City and Crosby seconded its feeling. "I've walked all over New York," he said, "from Battery Park to Yankee Stadium. Whatever is happening here that people complain about, the same things are happening in other cities. New York can never decline. It's like London. There's too much here. There's everything here you want."

This very welcome visiting fireman had kept to his reputation for being an early riser by showing up at 9:30 a.m., an hour before the ceremony, chewing reflectively on a mint and ready for conversation.

I asked right off, "Did you have breakfast yet?" "Yes, I did," he replied. And what did he have? "Oh, grapefruit juice, scrambled eggs, coffee." Ah-ha, gotcha! On the TV commercials he's always plugging Minute Maid orange juice. He laughed and said, "Well, I vary sometimes."

Continuing on serious subjects, what did he think of the Pittsburgh Pirates' chances this year? He owns a large percentage of the club.

"It's in bad shape," he admitted. "There's been quite a collapse in the pitching staff. They used to have four or five guys in the .300 hitting average, but now there's nobody except maybe Stargell. I'm discouraged, just concerned."

Crosby always had a reputation for being a snappy, colorful dresser, some of the flash reportedly by accident, as a result of his being color blind. This day, however, he was an example of restraint, a yellow tie but the rest of the outfit, including the plaid sports jacket, in understated earth tones. "True," he said. "I am color blind in certain areas like pastels and shades of green. Put a red golf tee on green grass and I can't see it at all."

All that golf playing shows up in his healthy-looking tan. Extra personal information for fans who want to know is that his eyes are a mild blue-green and his hair brownish-blond, and while not all of it is really his, it looks as though it is.

"People are always asking about the 'Road' pictures," he said, "asking when Hope and I are going to make another one. But another 'Road' picture is out of the question. We're too old for that. I wouldn't mind doing a movie, but it's hard to cast a fellow my age. I wouldn't have minded that role Gene Kelly had in '40 Carats.' That would have been a good one for me." The role is that of a man on friendly terms with his former wife who is involved in a romance with a man half her age.

"I would like to do the movie version of 'The Sunshine Boys' too," he said. "That would have been good for me and Hope. But I understand that they don't want somebody with the identity Hope and I have. It would lose a lot of credibility." 'The Sunshine Boys' is a Neil Simon comedy about two old-time vaudevillians getting together for a reunion appearance.

"Well, I am on TV," he said, "specials every year and appearances on sports shows. TV gets you more exposure. You can reach 20, 25 million people, and not many pictures draw that many."

It may be a surprise to learn that the Crosby fan club in England matches any club here. BBC radio just devoted a series to his life, 14 weeks of hour-long programs with excerpts from his recordings and radio shows, narrated by Doug Fairbanks, Jr. "They interviewed everybody I was connected with," he said, "actors, race track people. They even went to Monaco to see Grace Kelly."

He closes the series himself, singing a new song, "It's Not Where You Start, It's Where You Finish." A single has been issued in England of that, backed with Crosby singing "Tie A Yellow Ribbon Round the Old Oak Tree."

"It's Not Where You Start" is a show-stopper from the musical, "Seesaw," which opened this season and has come to be known as a tribute to New York also. The first recreational item on Crosby's latest New York experience was to see "Seesaw." He then spent two nights seeing other musicals, "Pippin" and "A Little Night Music." He also went to Aqueduct.

He was a solitary man on the town because wife Kathryn was at home with the children... "They're all busy with myriad activities," Crosby explained. The singer-actor-sportsman has another set of children...by his late wife, actress Dixie Lee who died in 1952.

Despite the general impression Crosby's career has created of his being the unflappable personality whose sternest gesture is slapping a pipe between his teeth, he has sunk those teeth into some dramatic roles like "Stagecoach," "The Country Girl," "Little Boy Lost" and,

of course, 1944's "Going My Way," for which he won an Academy Award. He donated the Oscar statuette to his alma mater, Gonzaga University, in Spokane, Wash., where it rested in a library case until it was stolen in April and replaced with a Mickey Mouse doll.

"That's right," he said, "somebody did pilfer it. I think they returned it, though. I think it was just students doing it for a lark. The authorities were highly concerned. They thought I would be upset."

He smiled as if to say, "Who, me?"

* * *

THE PERSON WHO HAS INFLUENCED MY LIFE THE MOST - By Bing Crosby
National Enquirer - April 22, 1973

My mother encouraged me to sing, so there's no doubt that she's the person who influenced me the most.

There were others who had strong influence on my life, of course. The great Al Jolson was one of them. He was my idol. I saw him perform many times when I was a youngster in Spokane, Wash., and if there's anyone I've tried to emulate, it's Jolson.

But it was my mother, Kate Harrigan, who pushed, prodded and guided me into singing. There were seven of us children in the family, but mother used to say that I had a special gift - a talent - that should be developed and shared with the world.

When I was 10 she took me to a local voice teacher. I had exactly two lessons and quit. The teacher had me practicing nothing but scales. "Not for me," I said.

Then Mother took over. She taught me two soggy, sentimental songs - "One Fleeting Hour" and "At the End of a Perfect Day." Mother made me practice until I knew the songs perfectly, then arranged for me to entertain at a local church affair. It was the first of many, many unpaid performances I gave around Spokane for the next few years.

It was rough, but after a while I started to enjoy the applause. I'd get upset if the audience didn't appreciate my singing.

Mother kept influencing me through my high school years. She insisted that I enter elocution contests and join the school debating society. In later years I realized that this had given me experience in projecting and talking on my feet that proved invaluable.

Mother was a strict disciplinarian always. But that helped all of us children become productive adults. And along with the discipline, we received a lot of love and attention, and a feeling of the importance of family and religion.

* * *

Ed Sullivan column - March 5, 1973

"We don't live in the time of the hero any more," says Charlton Heston, who was Moses in Cecil B. DeMille's "Ten Commandments," Judah in "Ben Hur," the title character in "El Cid" and John the Baptist in "The Greatest Story Ever Told." Heston said, "Men like that are too great for people to comprehend."...

Heston, symphonic music lover, says he doesn't understand popular music, but he enjoys Bing Crosby's way of "selling" a song...

Bing Crosby Talks to Fathers: "After Two Sets of Children—Here's How I Feel About Stricthness"



Bing and Kathryn Crosby are happily surrounded by Bing's "second batch"—Harry, Mary Frances and Nathaniel—in this photograph.



Bing and his first wife, Dixie Lee, with three of their four sons, Dennis, Gary and Philip. This was snapped back in 1936.

By Bing Crosby

In conversation with Helen Dorsey

Father's Day is kind of an offshoot of Mother's Day. I've always thought it ran second. But around our house, it gives the youngsters a chance to lay something on old Dad.

Mary Frances used to make things, little doodads, thingamabobs, a clay model of an animal or a bird. Now, she generally gives me a necktie. The boys give me golf balls or a couple of golf tees, something athletic. Last year they gave me some trout flies they bought. (They aren't quite old enough to make them yet.)

Sometimes people ask how I've raised Harry, Nathaniel and Mary Frances compared to my first batch of children. Actually there's been very little basic difference. When we raised my first batch of children I was a lot busier, had to travel much more, be on location for several months and didn't spend as much time with them as I do this group. Also, we sent the first group away to boarding school, whereas this group goes to a public high school down the street. But otherwise, the methods, the discipline and regime are the same.

I think in this day, more so than when my first children were growing up, it's especially important for parents to be as close as they can to their children and see something of them every day. We take all our meals together except lunch, when they're at school. There's so much permissiveness today—all children have to do is spend five minutes with the wrong companion and all the good work you've done can be undone. Today you have these groups who believe they can break the law and otherwise misbehave. If your kid gets into a group like that and doesn't participate, they call him "chicken." It's tough for a child to cope with that. So, if you can keep as close a relationship as possible with the children at this stage, I'm sure it's helpful. You need authority and discipline if you want any respect from your children for your beliefs, opinions and ideas.

I try to be a strict father, but there are certain limits. Kathryn wants them to do a lot of homework, and I do too; but sometimes if there's a good football, baseball or basketball game on—

say, the play-off games—and they're on at night, I'm for letting the boys watch it on TV. But I'm strict in other things. Harry's 14 now. He's allowed one night a week, preferably on the weekend, when he can stay out on a date until 10:30 or 11 p.m. Mary Frances is 13,

and she's not allowed that privilege yet. I suppose that's kind of strict for these times, but they don't seem to mind.

Our kids are in so many activities. Harry plays the piano and guitar, studies harmony and composition, plays golf and tennis and loves to shoot and

go boating. The boys have even cooked up a little business with some other kids publishing a dining guide of San Francisco and Los Angeles. United Air Lines has agreed to take it if they're able to sell the restaurants on the idea. All three children have a wide, wide variety of interests and never seem to be just sitting around doing nothing.

We find withdrawing privileges the most effective way to maintain discipline with our children—withdrawing recreation pleasures, trips they've been looking forward to. They're too old to lick! Mary Frances is 13—I can't imagine myself bending her over my knee and paddling her. Harry is as tall as I am. I still lick Nathaniel—just bend him over my knee and hit him on the fanny—but that's not too often. We've always believed in a little physical reminder on the bottom. At least that worked when they were little. We spanked them all.

My own father was never very strict. He let us do anything in the world. My mother was very strict, and we all had to cooperate and conform. We were a large family and anyone who got out of line was really asking for trouble from Mom! But we never resented having that kind of discipline, and I've followed much the same thinking with my children.

I also think children who have affluent parents are a special problem. They have to be taught how to cope with this situation. I've explained to my kids that they have a special responsibility because they have some affluence to enjoy a lot of things other kids can't enjoy. The result, I believe, is that they are unusually generous and open.

Then there are problems like the drug scene. Kathryn, being in the nursing profession, had all the literature on drugs and has always seen to it that the kids are kept up to date on the whole thing—what drugs can do to your health, etc. There haven't been any instances in our neighborhood, or with people with whom we are personally acquainted, but Mary Frances is very well posted and so is Harry. What will happen to them if they get with the wrong group, if they are dared and called "chicken"? I don't know—all I can do is pray.



— Wednesday, August 15, 1973

Bing Crosby Still Dislikes Being Beat Out by Hope

By MARY CAMPBELL
AP Newsfeatures Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The sympathetic, musical lilt that was in Bing Crosby's voice in "Goin' My Way" is still there. His eyes are bright, clear blue; his face has the light tan and scattered freckles of a Tom Sawyer; his manner is relaxed, unrushed and gracious; his attire the plaid jacket and mustard slacks consistent with the long-time casual image.

So, Crosby is easygoing and mellow now, at 69. But what about those busy days of movies and radio shows, was he casual then, or was he really working hard and driving? "Drive? No, oh no. I shrink from that.

"I never worked hard at anything. You know, you get a song you like doing. There's a scene in a movie, with a beautiful playback, and all you have to do is mouth the playback."

Crosby lives now in Hillsborough, a 25-minute drive from San Francisco, with his wife, Kathryn Grant, and their three children.

Family Man Now

"I play a lot of golf when I'm home, go into the city a lot for lunch. We go to the opera when it's on or to a good concert. There's a big jazz festival we've attended a few times. We keep very regular hours, 10 o'clock to bed and up at 7 a.m. We eat all our meals together, the whole family.

"The children are very interesting right now, 11, 13 and 14. I try to see their problems before they get too important. You have to try and inculcate good principles and spend as much time with them as you can.

"I travel a lot, hunt and fish, Europe every year, Africa, Mexico, Canada, Argentina. We take the kids whenever we can. Kathryn has a teacher's certificate so she can keep them up with school. But now that they're getting older, the school board frowns on that so we couldn't take them to Mexico this year, for instance.

"Sometimes we go to the movies, if we can find something to take the kids to. I know they had to bend the moral code on movies a little, but not as far as they've gone.



(AP Wirephoto)

BING CROSBY is filling his life these days with golf, hunting and fishing as well as with some television appearances. "If a movie came along they wanted me for," says the 69-year-old Crosby, "with reasonably clean material, I'd be easy to deal with."

"At home, we have 16-millimeter. I can screen anything in 16. I have all my old ones. The kids run them."

Crosby says he reminisces about the old days whenever he meets somebody from that time. Bob Hope works so much nowadays that most of their frequent chats are on the phone.

Lots of Ad Lib

"The road pictures were fun to do, you bet. You could do what you wanted to do and say anything, as long as somewhere or other you got some of the story in. We had a gag man on those pictures. He'd give Hope a line and me a line, but I'd have no idea what he gave Hope. I'd say my line and Hope would say, 'Let's do that over,' and he'd think of one and we'd have two good lines. They'd have the camera going pretty near all the time, even at rehearsal. Something would be funny; they'd leave it in.

"My first 25 years in show business I just was having a good time. I loved what I was doing with good actors and musicians. It never seemed like I had any goal or anything. Later on, I tried to get into some good things. I tried to diversify and play different characters.

"Some were nice little musicals. Your favorites are things that you might have been good in or accepted as good in, like

'The Country Girl,' 'High Society,' 'White Christmas,' 'Holiday Inn.'"

These days, Crosby does mostly TV appearances, "just enough to keep my hand in. Our family Christmas show is shot already. I'll do a comedy special with Bob Hope and Carol Burnett, probably shooting this summer, and one other that hasn't been picked yet. Then I'll be a guest for Flip Wilson and Carol and Hope. That is enough. I can leave the house at 8 — we're six minutes from the airport — and be on the set at 9:30 in the morning in Los Angeles.

"Last year our family Christmas show was No. 4 in the TV ratings for the year." Then comes the smile that signals joking rivalry. "Hope was third. That rankled."

Crosby isn't really retired from movies. He wouldn't have minded doing the part that Gene Kelly got in "Forty Carats" or "The Sunshine Boys" with Hope, but playwright Neil Simon thought them not Jewish enough.

"People used to send me some outrageous things I wouldn't be any good in and didn't want to do. They'd have a story meeting and they'd think of off-casting and say, 'Why not try Crosby?'"

Sold 30,000 Million Records

"But if something came along they wanted me for, with reasonably clean

material, I'd be easy to deal with."

Crosby released a record last spring with Count Basie, which may be his last. His records have sold 300,000 million, with "White Christmas" the biggest seller. Crosby was in New York "to try to drum up a little interest in the New York Experience," a multimedia movie, set for fall opening, made by Electrovision Productions, a firm Crosby has money in.

"I used to have a few real estate and other investments, but I've kind of phased them out. Now I've got this, because film is something I know a little about. I know what an audience likes. I'm thinking of doing some investment in Mexico; I think that is a great country of the future."

Upcoming on Crosby's travel schedule are going to Alaska in August to fish for salmon, sea trout and steelhead for the TV series, "The American Sportsman." "In September I go to Scotland; I put up a cup at St. Andrews seniors tournament and play there. I'll see the Ryder Cup Matches near St. Andrews. Then I'm going to Africa on safari and to Spain for partridge shooting. What am I doing in October? Oh, yes, I guess I come back here for the duck season. I get to do pretty near everything, I would like to do."

BING CROSBY, SON BACK IN THE SWING - James Bacon

Kathryn Crosby, who is married to a well-known singer, dropped down from the San Francisco Bay area for a one-day visit.

She reports that her golfing husband, Bing, is getting a lot of competition at home from Harry Lillis Crosby Jr., age 14.

"Both of them qualified for the club championship at Burlingame Country Club. Bing shot a 74 and Harry shot a 79."

The Crosbys have two other children, Mary Frances, 13, and Nathaniel Patrick, 11.

Kathy doesn't have time to miss her former Hollywood life. Up north, she works as a registered nurse, school teacher, actress, and member of two special federal advisory committees on the arts and child development.

She works out the acting bugs by performing with San Francisco's American Conservatory Theater (ACT) She last did "Cyrano de Bergerac."

In between, she squeezes oranges and mixes pancake batter for those commercials she does with Bing and the family.

I asked her when the Crosbys were going to do their Christmas TV special. "We already did it while there was snow at Sun Valley."

Nice to hear that Bing is back golfing again. He always was the best of the show-business golfers. He had to give it up for awhile because of bursitis.

When Bing and Kathy lived in Holmby Hills, their home adjoined the Los Angeles Country Club which barred Bing from membership because he is an actor. Randolph Scott is the only actor member of L.A.C.C. That's because the board of governors looked at some of his pictures and decided he didn't meet the requirements for rejection.

AN INTERVIEW WITH JOE VENUTI

By: Bill Osborn
August 9, 1973

The World's Greatest Jazz Violinist - that's what they called him back in the 20's when he was appearing nightly with the great Paul Whiteman Orchestra. Now we're in the 70's, and he's still called the World's Greatest Jazz Violinist.

Who's he? It could be only one man - one of the jazz immortals - Joe Venuti.

This writer has caught Joe's act many times over the years. Numerous times I've even had the good fortune to have a short chat with the maestro on these occasions.

On July 2, 1973 Joe Venuti opened an engagement at the Marine Room of the Olympic Hotel in Seattle, Washington. As I now live in Seattle this offered a perfect opportunity for me to meet and, hopefully, conduct a first hand interview with the Fabulous Fiddler. I had requested such a meeting from the hotel management and it was set up immediately following the 9 o'clock show on August 8, 1973. I was taken to a ringside table to watch the show and await Joe's appearance.



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Joe came on following the gal vocalist and opened with a rousing rendition of "Sweet Georgia Brown." Next he did "Hot Canary", a number that he composed. Quipped Mr. Venuti, "The first arrangement I did on this was in 1901."

This was followed by "Autumn Leaves", "Intermezzo", "Summertime", "Embraceable You", "Lady Be Good", "Rhapsody in Blue" and his get-away number, a real up beat version of "I Got Rhythm".

While appearing on stage, Joe was attired in a very stylish grey business suit, white shirt, dark tie and black shoes. Looks more like a business executive than a world famous jazz musician. That impression is quickly dispelled, however, the moment he gets into his opening number.

Most violinists play with a soulful and, generally, a sad look throughout. Not Joe. He works with a slight smile on his face while playing. That's most appropriate 'cause he certainly plays happy music.

Joe was inked in, originally, for a two-week stint at the Marine Room. Response was so great that another two weeks were added, then another two, until, finally, his run was extended through the end of August.

But now to get back to the night of August 8.

Immediately after this first show, Joe stepped off the stage and came right over to my table.

I told him I wished an interview with him for inclusion in the Crosby magazine "Bingang". I had a copy of the last issue and he seemed genuinely interested in its contents. He picked it up and, numerous times throughout our talk, scanned through its pages.

The following are a few of the items touched on in our discussion. We must have chatted for close to an hour but, to me, the time seemed to register as only a few minutes.

Joe works out of the Seattle area. He has lived in this city since 1955. Joe lives in a private home with a couple of close friends of many years. Just recently he returned after a two year sojourn in Europe where he worked constantly. He played in many cities in Italy, Russia and the Scandinavian countries. Probably his biggest success was in Germany. In that country, he played 65 concerts alone, mostly in college towns. It's interesting to note that his records are big sellers in Europe and have been for many, many years. Joe says his disc sales are bigger in Europe than in the U.S.A.

In the late 30's Joe had his own band and his singers were, the newcomers of that time, the Andrews Sisters. Joe was instrumental in interesting Bing Crosby to cut a couple of sides with the girls and his own band. The two numbers selected were "Ciribiribin" and "Yodelin' Jive". The latter number was composed by Joe. This historic event took place on September 20, 1939.

Probably Mr. Venuti's most famous selection, and the one most requested by his fans, is his own "Hot Canary".

In the business, Joe Venuti is probably as well known for his stories and pranks as for his musicianship. He regaled me with numerous of

these. They're screams - every one of 'em.

One I had never heard before concerned a baseball game he attended in the 30's in New York. The Chicago Cubs were the visiting team and when Gabby Hartnett, the Cub's catcher, was introduced in the line up, Joe let go with his now famous raspberry or, as some call it, bronx cheer. Gabby was so inflamed by this indecency that he took off after Joe. Only by barricading himself in the mens' room did Mr. Venuti escape the wrath of Mr. Hartnett. On Gabby's second turn at the plate, Joe let him have an encore and this precipitated a run through of the chase scene once again. Oh he's a livin' doll, that boy.

Another great anecdote recalled by Joe was when he was appearing on a concert date with the Paul Whiteman Orchestra. Joe believed the Pantages Theater in Los Angeles was the setting for this adventure. Bing was also in the band at that time. Mr. Venuti declared to one and all, especially Pops Whiteman, that he had an overpowering urge to sing and he meant right now. With that, he broke into his version of "The Desert Song". Pandemonium broke loose as this was definitely an "unscheduled" item. Joe didn't recall how close to perfection his rendition was but on reaching for the final high note he adlibbed - you guessed it - his now famous raspberry. That brought down the curtain for that afternoon.

Later, Joe started reminiscing about various artists and shows in which he had appeared. My interest was immediately piqued and I inquired if he had transcriptions of these historical get-togethers. Joe's answer was in the negative. In fact he had practically nothing along these lines. He travelled light with little but his violin and an occasional clean shirt to accompany him on his travels. He seemed particularly interested in a number of radio shows he had done in Paris in 1953 with Bing. These were shows sponsored by the General Electric Company. Alas, Joe had no copies of these appearances either.

I casually mentioned that I had all these shows in my own tape collection. Would he like copies of them? He most certainly would and his face radiated his pleasure and interest. I assured him they were his for the asking. We agreed to meet in the next few days and get this business underway. Other shows, also, came to light in our conversation and many of these I, too, had in my collection.

I'm sure these upcoming meetings with Joe will be equally as interesting as my interview of August 8th. However, due to time and space this write-up must end here.

Thus closes one of the most exciting and interesting chats I've had with any artist.

Joe is truly a fantastic raconteur, a top comedian and even more, a great personality. He's all these as well as the World's Greatest Jazz Violinist.

* * * * *

Next Page - ABOUT THE AUTHOR - BILL OSBORN - by Lynne Townsend -
Reprinted from Reebasack, a monthly newsletter published at Portland,
Oregon for the employees of Equitable Savings & Loan - Vol. 2, No. 6,
August, 1973.

BILL OSBORN HAS CROSBYANA



Here's an oldie-goldie of Seattle's Bill "Bow Tie" Osborn, ex-disc jockey and stand-up comic, with a small sample of his Bing Crosby collection.

Bill Osborn, collections man in Seattle since '71, has an interest that gave him a break in the broadcasting business — Bing Crosby. Bill has been collecting Crosby records since he was 11 years old, and actually met Bing for the first time when he was only 14.

Bill has one of the most complete Crosby collections in existence. Peo-

ple say he's got the most complete collection of his tapes in the world, including Bing's first radio show in 1932.

A week doesn't go by that Bill doesn't get mail from around the world concerning additions to his collection.

"I met many wonderful people in show business," Bill said. "The most exciting one, as you may imagine, was my idol himself, Bing Crosby. I have met him numerous times since then. He is exactly as I imagined him. This is the greatest compliment that I could bestow." By the late 50's, Bill was the possessor of a complete collection of all Bing's commercial recordings, and it's been kept up-to-date to this day.

Because of his hobby, Bill was a radio emcee for 17 years. He did at least one Crosby show a week, playing records from his own collection and telling anecdotes. This break came in Hollywood when Bill got a chance to read a newscast while discussing the purchase of Crosby records with a station manager.

Ex-disc jockey Bill is still a stand-up comic and emcee on occasion, and he received a letter from Bing a couple weeks ago. Don't miss Bill "Bow Tie" Osborn in action . . . attend the next Equitable loan dinner.

* * * * *

SNAPS FOR SALE - Contact: Rena Albanesi, 54 Quinsey Dr., Bridgeport, Connecticut 06606. Rena also has some back copies of "Bingang" available.

- 1016 - Bing & Fred Astaire - "Blue Skies"
- 1017 - Bing & Mary Frances
- 1018 - Bing, Alan Ladd, Director Tay Garnet on set of "Connecticut Yankee"
- 1019 - Bing, Kathryn, Sally Struthers & David Hartman
- 1020 - Crosby family

* * * * *

WANTED TO BUY - "How Green Was My Valley," 45 rpm Reprise #0478. Contact: Dave Rapp, 931 Decker Lane, Warminster, Pa. 18974. Dave also has a number of Crosby 45 rpm's available for trade.

NOTES FROM THE MEMBERS

The following are news items, anecdotes, observations, suggestions, etc. mentioned by various members in recent letters which I am including in this shortened form so as to share them with all of you (Editor)

BOB ROBERTS - Bob reports that the limited pressing disc by Bing and Russ Columbo was issued in only 10 copies (sold to investors rather than Crosby collectors) & the master destroyed. Although many collectors believe the matter to be a hoax, Bob is firmly convinced that the records were indeed pressed & is still attempting to locate a pressing or tape copy. Anyone having info should write directly to Bob. The pressing was in red vinyl & the titles were: Blue of the Night, Just One More Chance, I Surrender Dear, Sweet & Lovely, I'm Keeping Company, As Time Goes By, Wrap Your Troubles in Dreams, When Yuba Plays the Tuba, I'm Thru With Love, Can't We Be Friends, If I Had a Talking Picture of You, Three Little Words, Million Dollar Baby, My Kinda Love (Parody)

MARY BROWN - Mary is our only member from New Zealand and her complete letter relating her experiences as a Crosby collector appears elsewhere in this journal. In addition, she reports that a new weekly 1/2 hour program began August 25th on their National network called "Still the Groaner Sings." It will run for several months.

FRANK SYLVESTER - Frank has been working diligently in his local area to foster the playing of Crosby records on the radio & the stocking of his LP's in the shops. He asks that all members be reminded that the approaching Christmas season is an especially good time to request your local stations to play Crosby seasonal records. Frank has written to about a dozen of his local outlets which didn't stock Bing's Christmas albums last year & reports that one store that didn't carry Bing's albums in the past displayed them last Christmas & 89% of those displayed were sold in 130 of their outlets - an impressive showing!

LARRY GUNN - Larry reports that "Angels of Mercy" was issued in the U.S. in the 1940's on American Decca. Larry has a copy of a juke box pressing with "Angels of Mercy" on both sides (Decca 2842), a limited number only issued in the U.S.

RUTH SMITH - Ruth is a former editor of "Bingang" & also a former Milwaukeean who lived in my present neighborhood back in the 30's. Now a Florida resident, she visited a sister in Milwaukee this summer. I myself was on vacation when her letter was delivered and when I returned and called her sister, I was given the message that Ruth was in northern Wisconsin for the remainder of her trip. Sorry I missed you, Ruth. Would have enjoyed meeting you & hearing your recollections of the Crosby club. Next time!

MINNIE LEVY - Minnie is one of our most faithful providers of news-clips from her local papers. She also reports that on September 17th the Johnny Mann Show on CBS-TV featured a tribute to Bing, with the Johnny Mann Singers performing many of his hits.

PHIL SMITH - Phil reports that a recent visit with his wife to a local flea market brought quite a surprise - a record cleaner from

the 40's in perfect condition with Bing's picture, autograph, and Decca Records reproduced on the top. I, too, have this in my collection. It also made me wonder how many of the members remember the 78 rpm storage albums with Bing's picture on the cover & name on the spine which sold everywhere in the 40's. Phil also has the idea of reproducing Crosby song sheet covers in the journal & has supplied proofs of a number of early ones. These could be used as back covers or as inserts and by pooling our collections (on loan, of course) we could eventually reproduce them all. Or would any of the members be interested in buying a publication of reproductions of the covers? Hope you'll give me some feedback on this so I can proceed, as I think Phil's idea is excellent & as far as I know is an area of Crosby collecting much overlooked.

JOHN PURCHES - John also has an interesting suggestion for the journal - printing lyrics of songs in which Bing gets a mention. This has been done before to some extent - the 1950 Mello discography, Crosby on Record, has a page devoted to such material. However, perhaps we can uncover some more. John has sent quite a number of titles & the lyrics of "Eeney-Meeney-Miney Mo," 1935 Mercer & Malneck, Benny Goodman & His Orch., V1 25195, so we'll start out with that in the Spring journal. Would appreciate it if interested members would send along info on titles they know about.

PRISCILLA KOERNIG - Most of Priscilla's news turns up, of course, on her own page, but here is a last minute item which is of interest to all. Sea of Records, 116 Ninth St., San Francisco, Calif. 94103 will send any Crosby record currently available, will order items not in their stock, and will be happy to answer any letters from the members regarding items wanted, prices, etc. Priscilla also reports that KEST Radio--San Francisco is broadcasting the Philco shows.

CHET ROSE - Chet is a new member & a fellow Wisconsite. He's an avid collector but like Jim Keegan of Chicago (as reported in Ken Gray's newsletter) was collecting alone all these years unaware of the existence of a band of other Crosby fanatics. He stopped into his local library one day last Spring (being a librarian, I must get in this library plug) & was referred to Frank Murphy, the former head of the ICC, who in turn referred Chet back to me. In that roundabout way, he learned of the American club and, of course, we have already become good friends. Chet suggests a statistical study of the bands that have accompanied Bing on records over the years, and I hope he will pursue this. I would like to initiate a series on the various bands myself & perhaps the two projects could be combined. Are there any members out there with detailed info of this type? We've featured one excellent such report by Jack Souther in a previous journal but would like to do even more along this line.

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FLASH - Don't miss the November FIELD AND STREAM - Color Cover Photo with caption "Bing Crosby: Mr. Hunting and Fishing" - Feature story by Jack Samson (also with photos) "The Other Bing." Have several extra copies which I will send to overseas members upon request (\$1.00 - covers price of magazine plus postage) and will xerox copies when supply is exhausted)

THE FILMS OF BING CROSBY - Part 6

Reviews from the New York Times

Pat Sullivan, Compiler

IF I HAD MY WAY, from a screen play by William Conselman and James V. Kern; music by James V. Monaco and lyrics by Johnny Burke; directed and produced by David Butler for Universal Pictures. At the Rivoli.

Buzz Blackwell.....Bing Crosby
Patricia Johnson.....Gloria Jean
Joe Johnson.....Charles Winninger
Axel Swenson.....El Brendel
Jarvis Johnson.....Alllyn Joselyn
Fred Johnson.....Donald Woods
Brenda Johnson.....Claire Dodd
Marlan Johnson.....Nana Bryant
Mr. Bialf.....Moroni Olsen
Miss Corbett.....Kathryn Adams
Blanche Ring, Eddie Leonard, Grace La-Rue, Trizie Friganza, Julian Eitings.

By BOSLEY CROWTHER

There is one fiction frequently foisted in musical films like "If I Had My Way," now showing at the

Rivoli, which a certain familiarity with New York night life has always compelled us to distrust. It is the off-hand assumption that all one has to do to make a sensational success of a broken-down beanery is to splash it with a fresh coat of paint, ring in a couple of old-time vaudeville acts and a band, spot the star (or stars) of the picture in whatever their specialty is (usually singing) and then put up the ropes.

Somehow, that seems too simple—too much like a musical comedy trick. But maybe it could happen. Maybe, in fact, it would, provided the old-time entertainers were Eddie Leonard singing "Ida" and Blanche Ring singing "Rings On My Fingers," and provided further that the proprietary stars were Bing Crosby and 12-year-old Gloria Jean, singing nothing particularly exciting.

Such is the case, anyhow, in "If I Had My Way." For such is the array of talent which Mr. Crosby, a crooning steel worker, and Miss Jean, his orphaned charge, assemble to appear in the night spot they freakishly acquire when they come to New York in quest of Miss Jean's nearest of kin. Add the fact that the melodious couple are accompanied by El Brendel, the comical squiggeegum Swede who almost swallows himself, and encounter in New York Gloria's rollicking, frolicking great-uncle, Charlie Winninger, and you have a roster of the picture's assets.

But we still have the feeling that the whole thing is open to doubt. Mr. Leonard and Miss Ring are appealing, in a faded, nostalgic way, but they are hardly sensational. And Mr. Crosby and little Miss Jean, who has gained considerable poise since her last (and first) picture, "The Under-Pup," have only middling material with which to work throughout. The sum total is but a moderately amusing musical, more often flat than sharp—and this we say in spite of the fellow sitting next to us who kept telling his girl-friend solemnly, "This is very entertaining, indeed."

My 6, 1940, 13:2

RHYTHM ON THE RIVER; screen play by Dwight Taylor; based on a story by Billy Wilder and Jacques Thery; directed by William Schertzing; produced by William LeBaron for Paramount. At the Paramount.

Bob Summers.....Bing Crosby
Cherry Lane.....Mary Martin
Oliver Courtney.....Basil Rathbone
Starbuck.....Oscar Levant
Charlie Goodrich.....Oscar Shaw
Uncle Caleb.....Charlie Grapewin
Mille.....Lillian Cornell
Westlake.....William Frawley
John Scott Trotter.....Himself
Patsy Flick.....Phyllis Kennedy
Country Cousin.....Jean Cagney
Woody.....Wingy Mannone
Bates.....Brandon Hurst
Mr. Schwartz.....Charles Lane
Uncle.....Pierre Watkin

By BOSLEY CROWTHER

It's a very funny thing about this

picture business—or this musical picture business, we should say. One producer may come along with a supercolossal whopper, all dressed up in fancy pants and boasting a high-class score, and folks will find themselves sitting watch on a dull and pretentious fizzle. And then along will come Paramount, say, with an entry such as "Rhythm on the River," which opened at the Paramount yesterday—an after-you sort of entry which gives the odd impression of having been casually shot "off the cuff"—and, behold, it turns out to be one of the most likeable musical pictures of the season.

Heaven knows, you'd never think it would be from the way the thing starts out. It seems that Bing Crosby and Mary Martin are each working, unbeknownst to the other, as the music and lyric ghost-writers, respectively, for a popular composer who is Basil Rathbone. A snappy beginning, you don't think? Well, that's the situation, anyhow. And from that point on the story just follows a line of least resistance: Bing and Mary meet and fall in love, dash off a spare-time ditty called "Only Forever," which they vow to keep as their private pet. But then they discover that they are collaborative ghosts, try to crash the music field on their own, bog down and have their troubles until "Only Forever" pops up to make the equivalent of the Hit Parade.

What's there to it? Well, there's Bing, whose frank and guileless indifference, whose apparent dexterity with ad libs is, in this case, beautiful to behold. There is Miss Martin, who is ever so comfortable to look at and who sells a very nice song. There is also Oscar Levant, slumming from "Information, Please," who makes up in bashless impudence what he lacks in looks, charm, poise and ability to act. There are Mr. Rathbone, Charlie Grapewin and Wingy Mannone, who plays a hot trumpet, and there are several tuneful numbers, especially "Rhythm on the River" and "Ain't It a Shame About Mama." Add them all up and they total a progressively ingratiating picture—one that just slowly creeps up and sort of makes itself at home. It's a funny business, all right.

Ag 29, 1940, 23:2

ROAD TO ZANZIBAR; screen play by Frank Butler and Don Hartman; based on a story by Don Hartman and Sy Bartlett; directed by Victor Schertzinger; produced by Paul Jones for Paramount; music and lyrics by Jimmy Van Heusen and Johnny Burke. At the Paramount.

Chuck Reardon.....Bing Crosby
Donna Latour.....Dorothy Lamour
Fearless Frazier.....Bob Hope
Julia Quimby.....Una Merkel
Charles Kimble.....Eric Blore
Dimples.....Joan Marsh
French Soubrette.....Iris Adrian
Fat Lady.....Ethel Greer
Proprietor of Native Booth.....Luis Alberni
Saunders.....Georges Renavent
Boy.....Leo Gorcey

By BOSLEY CROWTHER

Pity the poor motion picture which ever again sets forth on a perilous (?) African safari, now that Bing Crosby and Bob Hope have traversed the course! For the cheerful report this morning is that the Messrs. Crosby and Hope, with an able left-handed assist from a denatured Dorothy Lamour, have thoroughly ruined the Dark Continent for any future cinematic pursuits. Never again will be hear those jungle drums throbbing menacingly but what we envision Bing and Bob beating a gleeful tattoo upon them. And never again will we behold a file of natives snaking solemnly through the trees without seeing in our mind's eye the ganging Crosby-Hope expedition as it ambles in and along the Paramount's "Road to Zanzibar," which arrived at that house yesterday. Yessir, the heart of darkest Africa has been pierced by a couple of wags.

Or perhaps we should really say it is pierced by a steady barrage of gags, for the quantity and quality of these account for the principal joy in this footloose film. Maybe Director Victor Schertzinger had a map of sorts when he started out, but the travelers on the "Road to Zanzibar" make little use of it. Taking as a mere point of departure the assumption that Bing and Bob

are a couple of carnival performers cast adrift in a land far from home, they and the picture seem to follow the line of least resistance and most fun. Somewhere along the way they pick up Una Merkel and Miss Lamour, also a couple of shysters whose "pitch" is selling Miss Lamour as a slave. And together the four set out on a tour of the hinterland, running afoul of romance and trouble, which are indistinguishable. The limitations of time rather than ingenuity finally call a halt.

And all along things happen with the most casual and refreshing spontaneity. Miss Lamour and Bing go boat-riding on a jungle pond. They laughingly remark how motion pictures put an orchestra in the middle of the woods when occasion calls for a song. An orchestra forthwith plays, and Bing goes into his act. Or again, when a group of painted cannibals begin debating the gastronomic potentialities of Bing and Bob, the chattered dialogue is translated by amusing subtitles. And both of the boys are ever ready with a fast quip to keep the farce going.

Needless to say, Mr. Crosby and Mr. Hope are most, if not all, of the show—with a slight edge in favor of the latter, in case any one wants to know. Miss Lamour, who is passingly amusing in her frequent attempts to be, assists in the complications and sings a couple of songs. And Miss Merkel and Eric Blore do well in minor roles. Farce of this sort very seldom comes off with complete effect, but this time it does, and we promise that there's fun on the "Road to Zanzibar." This time, as Mr. Hope puts it in one of his pungent phrases, they're cooking with gas.

Ap 10, 1941, 29:2

**'Birth of the Blues' Film,
Mostly Old Songs, Seen at
Paramount — 'Cadet Girl'
Presented at the Palace**

BIRTH OF THE BLUES, screen play by Harry Tugend and Walter De Leon; from a story by Mr. Tugend; directed by Victor Schertzinger; produced by B. G. De Sylva for Paramount. At the Paramount.

Jeff Lambert.....Bing Crosby
Betty Lou Cobb.....Mary Martin
Memphis.....Brian Donlevy
Aunt Phoebe Cobb.....Carolyn Lee
Louey.....Eddie (Rochester) Anderson
Pepper.....Jack Teagarden
Blackie.....J. Carol Nash
Limpy.....Warren Hymer
Wolf.....Horace MacMahon
Ruby.....Ruby Elzy
Maizie.....Barbara Pepper
Deek.....Dan Beck
Suds.....Harry Harris
Leo.....Perry Botkin
Piano Player.....Harry Rosenthal
Skeeter.....Donald Kerr
Mr. Lambert.....Minor Watson
Jeff (as a boy).....Ronnie Cosbey
and Jack Teagarden's orchestra

By BOSLEY CROWTHER

The College of Musical Knowledge may not grant the historical accuracy of Paramount's "Birth of the Blues," which started its Christmas-hopping early at the Paramount Theatre yesterday. But the learned and literal students of this or any other school will have to concede, at least, that here is a film straight down the groove—a blend of jump-and-jive music that should make the "hep cats" howl with some sweet bits of romantic chaunting that should tickle the "ickies," too. The Paramount has got a nice picture to greet the holidays.

Apparently the purpose of the story, without saying it in so many words, is to pay a belated tribute to the Original Dixieland Jazz Band to that quintet of raffish musicians who first brought "darky music" up-river from the South. If so, the tribute is just adequate and not a great deal more, for the tale which is told in this instance is really no story at all; it is just a random fable about a footloose clarinet player in New Orleans who assembles an assortment of primitive jive-artists, including a hot horn-blower and a lady who sings and then rambles around a bit while love casually intrudes. On the basis of story alone, "Birth of the Blues" rates a less-than-passing grade.

But as a series of illustrated jam sessions and nifty presentations of songs and jokes it is as pleasant an hour-and-a-half killer as the musically inclined could wish. Not only does feckless Bing Crosby play the clarinetist in his best unpremeditated vein, but he also has Mary Martin, Brian Donlevy, Eddie (Rochester) Anderson and Jack Teagarden with his orchestra to abet him. And although they give the impression of improvising, more or less, as they go, Director Victor Schertzinger has given to their sauntering a very smooth, easy-going pace. (This, incidentally, is the last film completed by Mr. Schertzinger before his recent death.)

For hot licks, you'll hear little better than the Teagarden boys giving out with the old "Memphis

Blues," presented as a pick-up jam session outside a New Orleans jail. For sweet and fancy singing that makes your muscles twitch, there is Mr. Crosby and Miss Martin doing truly delightful things with "Wait Till the Sun Shines, Nellie" and a new number, "The Walter, the Porter and the Upstairs Maid." And for digging deep on the low chords, you can't ask for anything more than Mr. Crosby's "Melancholy Baby" and those mournful "St. Louis Blues," sung by one Ruby Elzy, with the Teagarden band moaning behind.

Obviously, this little picture is not the ultimate saga of early jazz. But it begins to perceive the possibilities. As the "cats" say, it takes more than it leaves.

Also on the bill at the Paramount is an exceptional George Pal "puppetoon," a one-reel puppet animation called "Rhythm in the Ranks." It is an amazingly ingenious little item, beautifully colored and tuneful, too. Watch for it.

D 11, 1941, 39:1

**Irving Berlin's 'Holiday Inn,'
Co-Starring Bing Crosby and
Fred Astaire, Has Navy Ben-
efit Premiere at Paramount**

HOLIDAY INN, screen play by Claude Binyon; adaptation by Elmer Rice; based on an original idea by Irving Berlin; produced and directed by Mark Sandrich for Paramount; music and lyrics by Irving Berlin. At the Paramount.

Jim Hardy.....Bing Crosby
Ted Hanover.....Fred Astaire
Linda Mason.....Marjorie Reynolds
Lillic Dixon.....Virginia Dale
Danny Reid.....Walter Abel
Mamie.....Louise Beavers
Cigarette Girl.....Judith Gibson
Kat Check Girl.....Katharine Booth
Girls | Barbara Slater, Aling
and Dancers | Frances Louise La Planche,
Laurie Douglas, Lynda Grey,
Lora Lee

That man Irving Berlin has been whistling to himself again. Not content with turning out the most rousing Broadway show in years, he has scribbled no fewer than thirteen tunes for "Holiday Inn," the light-heartedly patriotic musical which opened last night at the Paramount in conjunction with a gala stage show for the benefit of the Navy Relief Society. Mr. Berlin may not know a great deal about notes, as he confesses, but he does know a lot about music. If there are no tunes in "Holiday Inn" that quite match those of his army show, Mr. Berlin still has created several of the most effortless melodies of the season—the sort that folks begin humming in the middle of a conversation for days afterward. At present Paramount prices Mr. Berlin's tunes are being sold dirt cheap.

As it happily happens, the film has caught the same effortless moods of the music. Mark Sandrich, director and producer, has taken the inevitable melange of plot and production numbers and so deftly pulled them together that one hardly knows where the story ends and a song begins—a neat trick if you can do it. That it comes off, of course, is largely due to the casual performances of Bing Crosby, who can sell a blackface song like "Abraham" or turn an ordinary line into sly humor without seeming to try, and Fred Astaire, who still owns perhaps the most sophisticated pair of toes in

Christendom. Mr. Astaire has rarely danced with more alert, care-free abandon than among the exploding torpedoes and red devils of "Say It With Firecrackers." And in Marjorie Reynolds, a very fetching blonde young lady, Mr. Astaire has a new partner who can hold her own at all speeds.

Mainly "Holiday Inn" is a series of musical episodes, each of which takes an American holiday for cue. But they have been strung ever so neatly on the amorous rivalries of Mr. Astaire, who wins all the battles except the last, and Mr. Crosby, a musical lazybones who retires to a New England farm which he converts into a night club for holidays only—thus leaving him 300-odd days a year for pure loafing. And while the pair desperately conspire against each other for the hand of Miss Reynolds, Mr. Berlin's music sets the moods from the romantic "Be Careful, It's My Heart," to nostalgic "Easter Parade," tender "White Christmas" and rollicking "Let's Start the New Year Right."

Along the way the author and director have bobbed up with some engaging tricks such as the befuddled Thanksgiving turkey hopping from one Thursday to another or the Washington's Birthday Minuet, in which a bland Mr. Crosby continually breaks up Mr. Astaire's precise and dainty footwork with hot licks in the accompaniment. It is all very easy and graceful; it never tries too hard to dazzle; even in the rousing and topical Fourth of July number it never commits a breach of taste by violently waving the flag. Instead it has skipped back over the year in an affectionate and light-hearted spirit. In a month without a holiday, "Holiday Inn" offers a reason for celebration not printed in red ink on the calendar.

T. S.

Ag 5, 1942, 16:1

ROAD TO MOROCCO: original screen play by Frank Butler and Don Hartman; directed by David Butler for Paramount; music and lyrics by Johnny Burke and James Van Heusen. At the Paramount: Jeff Peters.....Bing Crosby Turkey Jackson.....Bob Hope Princess Shalmar.....Dorothy Lamour Mullay Kasim.....Anthony Quinn Mihirnah.....Dona Drake Hyder Khan.....Vladimir Sokoloff Ahmed Fey.....Mikhail Rasumny Neb Jolla.....George Givot Oso Bucco.....Andrew Tombes Yusuf.....Leon Belasco

By BOSLEY CROWTHER

Let us be thankful that Paramount is still blessed with Bing Crosby and Bob Hope, and that it has set its cameras to tailing these two irrepressible wags on another fantastic excursion, "Road to Morocco," which came to the Paramount yesterday. For the screen, under present circumstances, can hold no more diverting lure than the prospect of Hope and Crosby ambling, as they have done before, through an utterly slap-happy picture, picking up Dorothy Lamour along the way and tossing acid wisecracks at each other without a thought for reason or sense. That is what they are doing in this current reprise on trips to Singapore and Zanzibar and, as a consequence, "Road to Morocco" is Route 1 to delightful "escape."

Of course, that may sound a bit ambiguous, considering Morocco's current significance in the news. But you mustn't forget that geography means nothing in a Crosby-Hope film. The only purpose it serves in this instance is to justify a fairy-tale background of oriental splendors, turbaned villains, Miss Lamour and Dona Drake in scant attire, and a line in a song whereby the heroes indicate that they are Morocco-bound.

Otherwise this lot of slap-stick nonsense, wherein Paramount's priceless pair of pantaloons whale each other with insults instead of custard pies, might take place in any locality, including Hollywood, in which the Messrs. Hope and Crosby could be cast up on a strange and fearful shore, amid the most forbidding surroundings—until Miss Lamour comes along. It might be set down in any country where Miss Lamour could be a gauze-gowned princess and Bing and Bob could wrangle hotly about which one should win her fair hand, then later go through mad and fast adventures when they have to shove a native shiek aside.

For, really, this "Road to Morocco" runs through that beautiful land of whacky make-believe, so seldom well explored in the movies—a land of magic rings and mirages, a land in which Bing and Bob can suddenly make an inexplicable escape from rigid bonds and then observe that, if they told

how they did it, no one would believe them—so they just won't tell. It is, in short, a lampoon of all pictures having to do with exotic romance, played by a couple of wise guys who can make a gag do everything but lay eggs.

As usual, Mr. Crosby is the sly one, Mr. Hope is the reckless, pop-eyed dope. Mr. Crosby woos the lady with soft talking and a song, "Moonlight Becomes You So." But Mr. Hope does it in a manner which would normally make her laugh herself to death. Together they form a combination which strings the fastest and crispest comedy line in films. Miss Lamour is, as usual in such spots, helpful; she never gets in the way and she sings a ditty called "Constantly" with just the proper shadow of a doubt. And Dona Drake, Anthony Quinn and Mikhail Rasumny furnish picturesque and rib-tickling assists.

The short of it is that "Road to Morocco" is a daffy, laugh-drafting film. And you'll certainly agree with the camel which, at one point, offers the gratuitous remark, "This is the screwiest picture I was ever in."

N 12, 1942, 30:1

'Star-Spangled Rhythm,' Balking All-Star Variety Show, Makes Its Premiere Appearance at the Paramount Theatre

STAR SPANGLED RHYTHM: original screen play by Harry Tugend; directed by George Marshall for Paramount; songs by Johnny Mercer and Harold Arlen. At the Paramount.

Pop Webster.....Victor Moore Polly Judson.....Betty Hutton Harry Webster.....Eddie Bracken B. G. DeSoto.....Walter Abel Sarah.....Anne Rogers Mimi.....Cass Daley M-Pockets.....Gil Lamb Mr. Fremont.....Edward Fielding Mac.....Edgar Dearing Duffy.....William Haade Sailors.....Maynard Holmes Tommy.....James Millen Eddie Johnson Bing Crosby and Bob Hope, Fred MacMurray, Franchot Tone, Ray Milland, Dorothy Lamour, Paulette Goddard, Vera Zorina, Mary Martin, Dick Powell, Veronica Lake, Alan Ladd, Eddie "Rochester" Anderson, William Bendix, Susan Hayward, Jerry Colonna, MacDonald Carey, Mollie Reynolds, Betty Rhodes, Dona Drake, Lynne Overman, Gary Crosby, Johnnie Johnston, Ernest Truex, Arthur Treacher, Sterling Holloway, Cecil B. DeMille, Preston Sturges, Ralph Murphy, Walter Catlett, Katherine Dunham, Walter Dore Wahl and Company, the Golden Gate Quartette, and Slim and Sam.

By BOSLEY CROWTHER

That quaint old Paramount custom of producing an annual all-star variety show, which was allowed to lapse into the past tense after "The Big Broadcast of 1938,"

has been hopefully revived with new vigor and a few new faces, too, in "Star Spangled Rhythm," which came yesterday to the Paramount Theatre on the New Year's bill. Half of the contract players on the studio's lot are jam-packed into it; stars of considerable glitter play vaudeville bits like good performing seals, and the great generosity of Paramount with entertainment is unblushingly advertised. But the film, by its very nature, concedes consistent quality to size and assumes the uneven proportions of a whopping big benefit show.

As usual in these thunderous Paramount broadsides, a wisp of story has been rigged—a sort of unstable platform—from which to explode the big guns. And this one is typically fragile—a bit of fiction about a Navy gob who takes his pals to Paramount's studio with the notion that his dad is a tycoon there. But dad is just a simple gatekeeper; the misconception has been built up by a telephone operator who loves the sailor and wants to make him think his dad is really hot. And the problem is thus to plant papa in

the place of the production chief, permit him to take his son and the sailors on a tour of the studio and finally to arrange a great big stage show, with Paramount players, for the Navy boys.

It is this stage show, quite obviously, which justifies the picture's name and frame. For the events leading up to it are tedious and decidedly overwrought. Victor Moore plays the fearful, desperate papa; Betty Hutton is the frantic telephone girl and Eddie Bracken represents a genial sailor with the usual eyes for just one thing. Walter Abel is the Paramount producer who rants and snorts at having his name taken in vain (which obviously B. G. De Sylva doesn't, since it is he whom Mr. Abel lampoons), and Edward Fielding plays "Y. Frank Fremont," the company's president, with a pop bottle and a Southern drawl. This part of the film is reminiscent of an intrastudio Christmas-party show.

But the star-spangled variety entertainment is ample, at least, and has its points. Vera Zorina dances easily and coolly to a litting number called "That Old Black Magic," and Bob Hope and William Bendix do a funny skit built up from an old jealous-husband gag. Eddie Anderson, otherwise "Rochester," swings a mean song-and-dance in a zoot suit, assisted by Katherine Dunham, and the vaudeville comic, Walter Dore Wahl, does a cute act. Paulette Goddard, Dorothy Lamour and Veronica Lake sing a ditty reflective of themselves, and Fred MacMurray, Ray Milland, Lynne Overman and Franchot Tone play bridge in typical feminine style. And the whole thing is topped off by Bing Crosby in a patriotic tableau called "Old Glory."

Those are just the high points in the picture. There are plenty of lower ones, too. For "Star-Spangled Rhythm" is like mountains—it's ups and downs and spread all over the place.

D 31, 1942, 20:1

The Mid-West Chapter of the American Club Crosby NEWSLETTER

Volume 1, Number 2

Chicago, Illinois

October 1, 1973

IT'S BEEN A LONG, LONG TIME...a year and a half actually since this newsletter last appeared. Your editor is responsible for this delay, and I'd like to briefly tell you about the events that have prevented me, until very recently, from devoting as much time to Crosby matters as I would have liked. Shortly after our first newsletter my wife was hospitalized for a time during which I was in the process of changing jobs. The summer and fall of 1972 was spent as a full time paid staff member of a national political campaign, and in September, 1972 our first son (Kenneth, Jr.) was born and I began my new job as a law school professor. As you can imagine, a new family member, the responsibilities of a first year law teacher, and political work that has continued to the present have put a crimp in Crosby activity here until very recently. I trust that everyone understands, and that delays in answering correspondence upon occasion will be forgiven. Believe me, my enthusiasm for Crosby matters has not slackened and there will be more newsletters in the future.

Pat Sullivan has graciously agreed to publish this newsletter in "Bingang," so we'll aim for at least one newsletter for each issue of "Bingang." Friends, there is an urgent need to strengthen our American club (the English and Australian societies have us beat by a mile right now!) and this can only be done if we get more people to read "Bingang" and to write for it. So why not try to drum up a few more subs for us. Our American club is the oldest Crosby society, so let's make it the largest and most enthusiastic too! Anyone in Chicago is, of course, always welcome here at the Gray household, and it is hoped that we can have some more Mid-West Chapter meetings this coming year. Anyone interested in knowing when we plan to meet has but to drop me a line and I'll let you know. And of course it is hoped that our overseas readers will let their friends know of "Bingang" too.

We here in the Mid-west have been working on a couple of projects that, if successful, may well put our American club right in first place among Crosby societies. As most of you know, Biograph Records will be coming out with its first Bing album this month. Biograph has agreed to give our American club a mention (with Pat's address) on the album jacket. This could be of great help to us, so it is hoped that this album will be supported by all club members. Dick Wagner, Phil Smith and I have also prepared additional material for Biograph that we hope will be used on the second album that Biograph plans (and perhaps more albums after that). We supplied Biograph with most of the great 1932-34 Bing Brunswicks that have never been reissued on microgroove before.

Jim Keegan and I are also working on a project that must remain essentially confidential for the time being, but it involves getting Bing and his recordings, and our club extensive coverage on a major Chicago radio station. Incidentally, Jim's getting in touch with Bingang and the other Crosby societies is an interesting story. In early 1972 your editor was visiting Oak Park, a suburb of Chicago, on

legal business. Having some spare moments, and passing a small record shop, your editor stopped in to inquire about Bing records. (Your editor has as much trouble passing a record store in quest of Crosby records as some people have passing a bar!) Well, out front the proprietor had nothing of Bing's, but when I explained what I was looking for, he directed me to a drawer way in the back that had a large number of old 45s jumbled together. A search turned up, sure enough, about a dozen Bing Deccas! The proprietor then suggested that I leave my name and address and if any more old records came his way he would give me a call. A few weeks later I got a call from Jim Keegan who had visited the same shop a few days after I'd been there, for the same purpose. When Jim was told that I had cleaned out the old Bing records a few days earlier, the proprietor gave him my phone number. Jim has been a Bing collector for many years, but had never heard of the Crosby societies, and some of Bing's more obscure records until we met. Jim and I have now become fast friends of course, but it's sheerest coincidence that we met. I wonder how many other collectors of Bing there are in this country that are in the same situation that Jim was (and your editor once was too). It all goes to show the need for our American club getting more publicity.

A small local radio station in Evanston, Illinois (another Chicago suburb) WLTD-AM broadcasts radio shows from the 30s and 40s. The host for the show is one Chuck Schaeden who also supervises the "Memory Club." The Memory Club, sponsored by a local bank, shows old movies every Saturday night at the bank's meeting room and an audience of about 50 shows up every week. Last fall, a few of us went to the Memory Club to see "The Big Broadcast of 1932" starring Bing, Stu Erwin, Leila Hyams, Burns & Allen, Kate Smith, the Mills Bros., the Boswell Sisters, Arthur Tracy, Cab Calloway, Donald Novis, Vincent Lopez, etc. What a delightful film it was! Bing was in top form, of course, and this was the first time your editor had seen this Bing classic. I think what most surprised me was how much I enjoyed the other stars that performed in the film. I decided to expand my record collecting to include representative LPs of these stars in their vintage periods and have not regretted the decision. The following is a list of non-Bing LPs I've acquired over the last year, and I recommend all most highly:

Harmony HL 7393 - Kate Smith - When the Moon Comes Over the Mountain (this album now deleted)

Biograph BLP C3 - The Boswell Sisters 1932-1934

Ace of Hearts - English AH 116 - Nothing Was Sweeter Than the Boswell Sisters (1931 tracks)

Coral - English CP 68 - The Early Mills Bros.

Decca-Eclipse - English ECM 2050 - Always in Song (Arthur Tracy)

Ace of Hearts - English AH 106 - The King of Hi-De-Ho (Cab Calloway-1931)

The English LPs listed above are also available in the large stores in Chicago and New York. At the showing last fall of the Big Broadcast, I also had the opportunity to recruit two new members for our Midwest Chapter, Mr. Herb Heki and Mrs. Roz Weiner Jacobson. Both were later over to our house to listen to Bing records. Mrs. Jacobson was a member of Bingang a few years ago, and of course we're most happy to have her back.

This past spring, the Memory Club showed the 1936 version of "Anything Goes" and it was again another great evening for those of us who could make it. All Mid-West Chapter members will be notified of future Memory Club showings of Bing's films here in the Chicago area.

The Bing Crosby film book, "The Road to Hollywood," has just been published by Ralph Harding, editor of the Crosby Collector, in collabor-

ation with Fred Reynolds, Bob Roberts, and the late Les Phythian, and it's stupendous! If you have the opportunity to acquire a copy, don't pass it up. This is the same team that published "The Road to Bing Crosby" record discography some years ago. That massive 4-volume work (with V-disc supplement) is still the definitive Crosby discog., however, it is now some years out of date and is inaccurate in listing some American numbers, principally American 45s. Your editor has been engaged in extensive research recently and hopes to bring the Road up to date, or at least publish a set of amendments thereto, and in addition, clarify what size and speed various record numbers indicate. This is a monstrous job, and help from all will be greatly appreciated. I'll probably be bugging many of you with picky questions, but please, be patient with me. As one correspondent told me, if we Bing enthusiasts don't try and do this, who will. One pressing need I have right at the moment is that I need some old Australian Decca/Festival catalogues, or at least some explanation of what the various Australian numbers mean in terms of speed, size, etc. Can anybody help? I'll pay for the catalogues.

You'll be interested in knowing that record prices in New York (where we visited some weeks ago) are still as high as ever. Your editor has some spare Bing records available for trade. Some nice items. Lists will be supplied upon request.

One final point for this section. I think you all know about the Crosby Collector, but do you know about "Bing," the magazine of the International Crosby Circle? It's a great magazine and the Crosby scene is not complete without it. For full details, write to John Bassett, "Bingville," 72 Stromness Road, Southend-on-Sea, Essex, SS2 4JQ, England.

DISCOGRAPHICALLY SPEAKING

Before getting to the main business of this section of the newsletter, you may remember that in our first newsletter (published in issue 64 of the Crosby Collector, page 59) we attempted to list all of Bing's 45 rpm American box album sets. The following must be added to that list (the number in parentheses indicating the number of discs in the set):

- Decca 9-163 - Stephen Foster Songs (4)
- Decca 9-164 - Jerome Kern Songs (4)
- Decca 9-210 - Al Jolson Sings with Bing, etc. (4) (only 2 duets featuring Bing)
- Decca 2-111 - The Small One (2)
- Columbia B-280 - Crosby Classics, Vol. 1 (4)
- Columbia B-281 - Crosby Classics, Vol. 2 (4)
- Columbia G-4-10- The Bix Beiderbecke Story, Vol. 2 (6) (1 Bing)
- Columbia G-4-11- The Bix Beiderbecke Story, Vol. 3 (6) (4 Bing)

Pat Sullivan and I thought that the following round up of recently issued LPs that feature Bing (both from U.S. and abroad), plus a couple of 45s, would be of interest to everyone. These records are generally available in the country of issue (which is indicated) and further details of availability are supplied where necessary.

1. Bandstand Records BSR 7104 - "The Early Years-Jimmy Dorsey & His Orch. 1936-1941" - contains Bing's "Peckin'". U.S.
2. Columbia 2 LP set, G 31213 (US) and CBS 67292 (England) - "Big Bands' Greatest Hits, Vol. 2" - contains Bing's "Your're Getting To Be a Habit With Me" - Take B - U.S. and England.
3. Coral-English CP 98 - "Hollywood Sings, Vol. 3" (Same as AH 69) England.
4. Coral-English CPS 105 - "Bing & Dixieland Bands" (Same as AH 31, DL 8493, etc.) - Enhanced for stereo - England.

5. Raretone-Italian RTR 24004 - "The Columbian Bix" - Contains "Get Out and Get Under the Moon," "I'd Rather Cry Over You," "Georgie Porgie," "Out O' Town Gal," "Louise," "Reaching for Someone," "Seventh Heaven" by Bing - U.S. & England but very difficult to obtain - try Peter Seago of RSVP.
6. Raretone-Italian RTR 24008 - "Bix-To Be or Not To Be" - contains "It Was the Dawn of Love," "Waiting At the End of the Road," "When You're Counting the Stars Alone," "Happy Feet," "I Like To Do Things for You" by Bing - Availability same as RTR 24004 above.
7. Family-Italian SFR-DP 655 - "Louis Armstrong & Bing Crosby Live" - contains 14 songs from late 40s radio - Bing sings on only 4: "Lazybones" (2 tracks), "My Honey's Lovin' Arms," "Blueberry Hill." Bing introduces a few of the other songs. Availability same as RTR 24004 above.
8. Family-Italian SFR-DP 660 - "P.Whiteman Orch.-1928" featuring Bix, "Concerto in F" and "Metropolis" (all 4 parts) Availability same as RTR 24004 above.
9. Harmony KH 32424 - "Those Legendary Leading Men, Vol. 1" - contains Bing's "Snuggled On Your Shoulder." Same as the 1st of 2 LPs in the 2-LP Epic set (now deleted) "Those Wonderful Guys"- B2N 164. U.S.
10. Broadway BDWY 102 - "The Unheard Bix" - contains Bing's "My Pet" (Take 3), "It Was the Dawn of Love" (Takes 1 and 3), "Waiting At The End of the Road." Available for \$6.00 total from Stan Hester, P.O. Box 244, Milford, Michigan 48042. U.S.
11. Totem LP 1002 - "Philco Radio Time" - complete programs of Oct. 16, 1946 (with Hope) and Feb. 19, 1947 (with Garland) Available for \$5.00 from Larry Kiner, 7554 132nd Ave.N.E., Kirkland, Wash. 98033. U.S.
12. Totem LP 1003 - "Philco Radio Time" - complete programs of March 5, 1947 and April 2, 1947 (both with Jolson) Available as above.
13. Blue & Gold LP No. 2 - "Philco Radio Time" - identical to Totem LP 1003. Available from Larry Kiner for \$5.95.
14. History in Sound HIS 1941 - "World War II" - contains Bing singing "A Cranky Old Yank in a Clanky Old Tank..." plus a Bing spot ad for the women's armed services. U.S.
15. Radiola #17-18 (2-LP set) - "Hollywood Is On The Air" - contains a Paramount promotional track of Bing talking about "Double or Nothing" and singing "Smarty." U.S.
16. Jazum 15 - contains "Happy Feet" from the soundtrack of "King of Jazz." Available for \$5.25 (in U.S.) and \$6.50 (overseas) from William C. Love, 5808 Northumberland St., Pittsburgh, Pa. 15217. U.S.
17. Historia-German H-640 - "Hollywood Film Music of the 30s" - contains the Decca track of Bing's "All You Want To Do Is Dance." U.S., England, Germany.
18. Sagapan-English 6904 - "Louis Armstrong, Vol. 2" - contains Bing's spoken introduction to two Armstrong numbers from Philco shows. England.
19. RCA-Victor-French 731.131 (Black & White, Vol. 50)- "Bix Beiderbecke Legend, Vol. 3" - contains "Mississippi Mud" (41696-2) with Irene Taylor & Rhythm Boys. Available in U.S., England, France but difficult to locate.
20. BBC 50A & 50B - "50 Years of Broadcasting" - BBC album contains an excerpt from Bing's "Where the Blue of the Night" (E37373-B) - 2-LP set - England.
21. Chord 7-inch LP - "You're The Only Star...Bing" - Contains 6 Kraft tracks - allegedly pressed in U.S. but almost impossible to obtain.

22. RCA Special Products PRS-400 (enhanced stereo) - "Music To Remember" - contains Bing's 1931 recording of "Wrap Your Troubles in Dreams." Issued as an offer on a General Foods cereal box top - no longer available.
23. MCA has apparently issued a 2-vol. blooper LP series, the second vol. containing a snippet of Bing. More details when I receive the record.
24. The International Crosby Circle is planning a special Bing LP. For more details, write to John Bassett, "Bing" magazine.
25. Amalgamated (Frogbiel/Wallaby) - "Bing's Rare First Broadcast" - contains "I'm Thru With Love," "Just One More Chance," "Blame It On My Youth," "Easy to Remember," "Ole Faithful," "Lullaby of Broadway," "Clouds" (excerpt) Record available from P. Sullivan.
26. Amalgamated and Candid Movie Star Gallery are planning 3 more LPs: "Christmas Eve With Bing & Frank Sinatra," "Bing-Hopalong Cassidy: A Memorial," "Bing-Perry Como: Great Duets." More details when they are known.
27. Startone has put out 6 albums now with Bing items on them. All are available in the U.S. They are:
 ST-201 - "Judy Garland 1935-1951" - contains 3-1948 radio duets with Bing - "For Me & My Gal," "Embraceable You," "Who."
 ST-205 - "The Feminine Touch" - contains "La Vie En Rose (Bing & Marlene Dietrich, 1952) "Road to Morocco Parody" (with Hope & Lamour, 1946) "I Don't Know Why" (Bing & Lauren Bacall, 1949)
 ST-206 - "Singing Troubadors on the Air" - Contains Bing's "Blues My Naughty Sweetie," 1941.
 ST-208 - "Judy Garland Musical Scrapbook" - Contains "Wait Till the Sun Shines Nellie" (duet with Bing, 1946) "Tearbucket Jim" (duet with Bing, Wm. Frawley & Leo McCarey, 1947) "Ma, He's Making Eyes At Me" (duet with Bing, 1949)
 ST-210 - "Music Maestro Please" - Contains "On Treasure Island" (from 1935 radio broadcast with V. Young Orch. & intro by Jolson)
 ST-212 - "A Hand Full of Harmony" - Contains "The Bluebirds & Blackbirds" (1930, radio?, Rhythm Boys)
28. There will apparently be some new English Coral albums of Bing later this year. One will be "Bing & The Andrews Sisters, Vol. 3." The others are not definite yet.
29. Paramount PAS 1012 - "Paper Moon" - Released in connection with the new Ryan O'Neal film - Contains Bing's Brunswick recording of "Just One More Chance" (enhanced stereo) - This recording was apparently heard in the background of the film; the LP contains the full recording.

New 45s - Daybreak-English-DAS 401 - Gonna Build A Mountain/Sugar Don't You Know
 Daybreak-English-DAS 402 - Tie A Yellow Ribbon/It's Not Where You Start

The latter item was newly recorded by Bing this year, and the "Tie A Yellow Ribbon" side is apparently quite popular in England. It's no wonder either for Bing does a great job on this tune which brings back memories of "Country Style" and "Nobody's Darlin' But Mine." DAS 402 should be issued in the U.S. soon.

Space has kept me from listing everything that I wanted to above. I've left out LPs that have been issued or reissued in toto on overseas labels, and a few special product LPs that I've run across lately which just add another number to the discography. Perhaps there will be time to discuss these next issue. I also have some interesting information on hitherto undiscovered alternate takes

which must wait. One item I just can't resist mentioning is a Longines set entitled "The Best of the Telephone Hour." I recently "junked" two copies of the bonus LP that was issued with this set. One is mono, record number SY 5117 (LW 387) and the other is stereo (enhanced) CSS 860, SYS 5117 (LWS 387). The bonus LP is called "Command Performance...Golden Moments from the Telephone Hour." One track on this LP contains 3 songs by Bing, "Avalon," "Chinatown My Chinatown" and "Alabama Bound." What is interesting is that the 3 versions are distinctly different from the same 3 Decca tracks and are backed by a full orchestra and not the Buddy Cole Trio. Could these be Decca alternates? And were the songs in the "New Tricks" album recorded by Bing over the Buddy Cole musical tracks such that Decca could take the vocals and combine them with a different musical backing? Or are these extracts from a TV show? Bing has made TV appearances for the Telephone Company. These questions need some answers, so does anyone know? Further, the full Longines set, which I don't have, apparently features one Bing song, "I'm Confessin'." Could this be an alternate take too? Does anyone know? I believe the above info on these tracks is a Bingang exclusive. We'll try to develop more information useful to discographers and all Crosby enthusiasts in future newsletters.

GRAY MATTER

In this column your editor wants to conduct a philosophical dialogue on matters pertaining to Crosbyana. One of the most unsettling things to stateside Crosby collectors is the fact that Bing and his records seems to be much more popular in England right now than in the U.S. How do we explain it and what do we do about it? Another matter of concern to Crosby collectors is the sporadic nature of the reissue of Crosby material on LP. The two problems are of course directly related and I don't just mean in the sense that if Crosby interest is rekindled, then the record companies will reissue some selected material (as has been happening in England). The present day attitude of most commercial enterprises in this country, including the record industry, is based on the belief that the more transient, temporary, fadish a product is, the more readily disposable it is, then the better it is for the industry producing it. Quality, or longlastingness is a serious impediment to the continued well being of the producer. One can see this in the rapid deterioration built into automobiles, appliances and other products made in this country. It is often cheaper to buy a new item than get an old one repaired. The implications to be drawn from this state of affairs are discussed in a book by Alvin Toffler entitled "Future Shock." This work contains many insights that are helpful in explaining the present state of Crosbyana. We'll discuss these further in forthcoming issues. I think, however, that there is a danger that much recorded material of Bing and other great artists will be lost forever unless something is done.

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